

Hijacker wants freedom for arrested sheikh

DUESSELDORF (R) — A hijacker forced a Dutch airliner to land in Duesseeldorf on Sunday and demanded the United States free a blind Islamic cleric allegedly linked to the bombing of New York's Trade Centre. The hijacker, who seized KLM Flight KL110 on route from Tunis to Amsterdam, released all passengers and four of the seven crew members shortly after 5 p.m. (1500 GMT), airport officials said. He first insisted that the remaining crew — the pilot, a female co-pilot and a steward — should fly the Boeing 737-400 to New York and also demanded that the United Nations enforce its sanctions against Serbia, they added. But, accepting that the mid-range airliner could not reach New York, he later asked to be flown to another European country such as Sweden, airport spokesman Peter Zarth told Reuters. "He is believed to be an Egyptian, 35 years old," Mr. Zarth said. "He threatened that he had a bomb but we do not know if he actually has one." Mr. Zarth could only say the hijacker sought freedom for a jailed Egyptian now awaiting deportation in New York, but other airport officials identified him as Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who is accused of entering the United States illegally while on a banned list, is contesting deportation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية "الرأي"

Quakers may end Gaza programmes

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) threatened Sunday to close its Quaker pre-school programmes in the occupied Gaza Strip after armed Palestinians threatened its representative. "Two masked and armed individuals, purporting to be from the unified leadership in Gaza, came to the home of AFSC's representative and acting director in Gaza, Hashim Abu Sido, demanding that he resign immediately as our representative," the U.S.-based AFSC said in a letter to Palestinian leaders. The AFSC said the incident occurred Friday. The unified leadership directs the Palestinian uprising. The Quakers, or Society of Friends, is a religion strongly opposed to violence and war. The Quakers' AFSC operates dozens of pre-schools for Palestinian children in the Strip. "AFSC is compelled to terminate immediately its involvement with the Quaker pre-school programmes in Gaza, to release all staff and to return the premises to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency)," said the letter obtained by Reuters. It said the decision would be implemented unless Palestinian leaders took immediate steps to ensure the safety of AFSC staff.

Volume 17 Number 5384

AMMAN MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1993 SAFR 26, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Arab ministers to convene Aug. 22

AMMAN (AFP) — Arab parties in the Middle East peace talks will convene in Beirut on Aug. 22 for preliminary discussions before the next round of talks with Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Tunis representative said here Sunday. Hakan Balawi told AFP that the meeting, to be attended by the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, together with the head of the PLO's political department, would aim to coordinate Arab positions ahead of the 11th session of bilateral talks with Israel in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

Yemeni-Saudi talks resume

SANAA (AP) — Yemen and Saudi Arabia Sunday resumed negotiations on a long-running border dispute. The session, the fifth since the effort to resolve the row began last year, was held in Ta'iz, 260 kilometres south of Sanaa, according to official reports. The Saudi team was led by Mattiab Al Fajiyeh, a Foreign Ministry director, the Yemeni by Jaafar Saeed Basaleh, an official from the vice-president's office. The two sides had pledged when they began the effort last year to keep their talks private until final agreement.

Israel plans \$600m Dead Sea project

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet approved legislation Sunday that will allow the Dead Sea works to invest \$600 million in mining minerals and creating 2,000 jobs, Israel Radio said. The bill, which parliament must approve, would give the government-owned Dead Sea works authority to issue itself development and building licenses. It plans to invest \$295 million in setting up a magnesium factory and \$60 million in additional potash producing plant around the mineral-rich Dead Sea, the Maariv daily said. It also plans investments in salt mining and enlarging a power plant, the newspaper said.

Iran accuses Saudis of breaking accords

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran Sunday accused Saudi Arabia of barring its pilgrims from visiting Mecca despite having agreed to allow 3,000 Iranians to visit that country per month, Salam newspaper said. A culture ministry official, Mohammad Hussein Rezai, said the authorities in Riyadh had reneged on an agreement signed between the two countries in 1991 and refused to issue visas to some 3,000 Iranian pilgrims.

Trial of 53 militants opens in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — The mass trial of 53 Islamic fundamentalists accused of trying to overthrow the Egyptian government opened amid tight security in the high military court here Sunday. The 53 are part of a group of 250 militants accused of forming an illegal organisation, Taleah Al Fatah (the Vanguard of the Conquest), which is bent on toppling the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. The trial, which was adjourned until Aug. 25 after a brief opening, took place a day after a civil court acquitted all 27 militants accused of the 1990 assassination of Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub (see page 10).

Jordan denies attacks on rebels' towns

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan denied Sunday that it bombed southern cities held by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and forced thousands of civilians to flee to neighbouring countries. The denial came in a statement issued by Brigadier Mohammad Beshir Suleiman, spokesman for Sudanese armed forces, in response to an SPLA accusation. The rebel army had charged that Sudan had launched a major air and ground offensive against the cities of Morokob and Kaya in the Equatoria governorate of southern Sudan. Brig. Suleiman charged that "this is part of a campaign against the Sudanese people." The army, he added, was human enough not to make civilians a target for their operations.

Electoral puzzle likely to persist until Tuesday

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Uncertainty about the mechanism that will govern the elections for the 12th Parliament in November is likely to continue until Tuesday when the Cabinet is expected to issue a temporary law that would introduce the one-person-one-vote system into the electoral process.

Well-informed sources have expected the government to announce a new election law within 48 hours but Minister of Information Ma'n Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times Sunday that "up to this moment, (the Cabinet) has not discussed the Election Law."

He said the Cabinet will not meet again until Tuesday when it holds its regular weekly session. He did not say whether the Election Law would be on the agenda, however.

Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad had also told a delegation from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) that the government has not yet made any decision on the law, according to IAF President Isbah Al Farhan.

Dr. Farhan told the Jordan Times that he asked Mr. Hamad during a meeting on Saturday whether a government announcement of electoral changes was to be made this week. He said Mr. Hamad replied that "no decision has yet been taken."

"The Islamic Action Front, which was formed as the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood movement after the legalisation of political parties last year, had earlier threatened to boycott the polls if they were held under a new law."

During Saturday's meeting, which was held at the invitation of Mr. Hamad, the IAF delegation told the minister that their party would not announce its decision on participating in the elections until the government clarified its position on the law that will govern them, Dr. Farhan said.

"We told him that our position is to contest the elections if they are held under the current law and we will reconsider our position if the law was changed," Dr. Farhan said.

Israel insists it is not talking to PLO

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The status of the Palestinian delegates to the Middle East peace talks has not changed and Israel will continue negotiations with them, not the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday.

"There has been no change in their status," Israel Radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling his ministers at a cabinet meeting.

Official communiques from the PLO in Tunis talk of organisational changes but do not say that members of the Palestinian delegation have been appointed to the PLO's steering committee (for the peace talks), Mr. Rabin said after a week in which the delegates made it plain that they talk in the name of the PLO.

The cabinet session came as Faisal Hussein, head of the Palestinian negotiators, told reporters on a visit to Gaza City: "From now on Israel takes it as a 'fait accompli' that we represent the PLO."

Spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Friday that some members of the delegation would now sit on the steering committee with PLO officials following disagreement over policy for the peace negotiations.

But cabinet secretary Elyakim Rubinstein shrugged off such statements, telling reporters: "There is no change in Israel's position regarding the PLO."

"The government is negotiating an interim agreement with a delegation from the (occupied) territories whose members are not implicated in terrorism."

"The government is not negotiating with the PLO."

When the peace process began in October 1991 Israel refused to negotiate with the PLO, agreeing to talk only to Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

tion if the law was changed," Dr. Farhan said.

The government had earlier rejected threats to boycott the elections saying it will not be pushed around. Mr. Hamad told a press conference last week that all political parties were free to contest or boycott the elections.

Dr. Farhan, however, said that the meeting with Mr. Hamad on Saturday was "smooth and comfortable and served as a forum to exchange views on a number of issues on the local political scene."

The Islamic front fears that a new election law would be tailored to weaken its performance in the November elections and has been a fierce opponent of electoral changes that the government would introduce unilaterally.

Observers and well-informed sources say the most significant electoral change would be the introduction of the one-person-one-vote formula which would mainly work to the disadvantage of the IAF.

They say the new voting system would deny the Brotherhood the opportunity to repeat the electoral gains it made in the 1989 elections when it benefited from the bloc-voting system through the formation of alliances with independent candidates.

In its campaign against the change, the IAF is focusing on the mechanism through which the Election Law could be changed.

It says Parliament is the only body that is constitutionally empowered to issue legislation in the absence of extraordinary circumstances in the country. Along with other political parties and figures opposed to changing the law, it says it would be illegal for the government to change the law through a provisional legislation which the Constitution stipulates can be enacted in "extraordinary situations" only.

Former Muslim Brotherhood deputies who will contest the next elections on the IAF ticket, and other former legislators, warned Saturday that they would challenge the government in court if it changed the Election Law through issuing temporary legislation.

isolation.

The Brotherhood will Tuesday host a meeting of former deputies and heads of political parties to further discuss a plan of action in the event the government decided to change the law unilaterally.

The deputies met Saturday at the office of former independent Islamist lawmaker Leith Shbeilat who claimed he had the support of "at least 30 to 40" parliamentarians in the bid to take the government to court if it replaced the Election Law.

Meanwhile, the voter registration period ended yesterday but the Minister of Interior did not reveal the final number of registered voters. The latest figure reported Saturday put the number of new voters (those who did not register for the 1989 elections or reached the legal age for voting since then) at 379,401, bringing the total number of registered eligible voters to around 1.4 million.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday issued a circular urging government officials to cooperate with district governors in preparing for the elections, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted him as saying that ministries and government department officials and members of the judiciary can participate in the committees that will supervise the elections on Nov. 8.

The government had earlier said parliamentary candidate can officially register with the Ministry of Interior between Oct. 14-16 and can launch their electoral campaigns between Oct. 16 and Nov. 6. The minister of information Friday requested newspapers not to carry advertisements for candidates before the legal period of the campaign actually starts.

However, there were reports on Sunday evening after the registration centres had closed that as many as 100,000 of the "new" voters were not actually "new" since they had registered for the 1989 elections but did not know that they did not have to register again. Ministry of Interior officials were not immediately available for comment on these reports.

Around 30 people, mainly students and staff members at Mu'ta's military university south of Amman, were arrested and detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID) in April and May for allegedly plotting to kill the King during a speech he was to give on June 26. But most of the detainees were released in the past two weeks, and the rest were transferred to a military prison in Zarqa last week where they await their trial.

Rabin says settlers impede security

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Jewish settlers in the occupied Golan Heights pose a risk during military operations, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday, refuting claims the occupied Syrian territory is essential to Israel's "security."

"Children, women, cows, others — they were targets, innocent targets in the 1973 war, so we had to vacate them," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin has said Israel will withdraw from territory on the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in the 1967 war, in exchange for peace with Syria. He has not specified the extent of a withdrawal.

Syria has said it will not accept anything less than the whole territory.

Mr. Rabin's statement starkly contradicted persistent claims by right-wing nationalists that settlement enhances Israeli "security."

"I believe it would be easier for us to cope with terrorism with freedom of action of our military activities in the territories not worrying all the time who is there," Mr. Rabin told a group of visiting Jewish fundraisers in occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's comments came as the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks are due to resume in Washington on Aug. 30.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said following a visit to the area two weeks ago that he expected momentum in the Israel-Syria talks when negotiations resume.

"Today, there are ten times more of them," Mr. Rabin said of the settlers. "Keeping whatever is in the (northern) territories is not crucial to our security."



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday presents a certificate to an air force graduate (Petra photo)

King attends air force graduations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attended the graduation of a batch of Royal Air Force pilots held at one of the Jordanian royal airforce bases.

After listening to speeches by the Royal Air Force College commander who outlined the training programmes of the graduates, the King presented the new pilots with their wings and distributed awards to those excelling in their courses.

King Hussein, accompanied by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior military officers and the air force commander, watched an aerial show presented by formation of the Royal Air Force.

King Hussein also Sunday attended a graduation ceremony of Royal Air Force command staff and distributed certificates and awards to those excelling in their courses.

Attending the ceremonies were His Royal Highness Hashem Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Karaki, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, the directors of the Civil Defence and Public Security departments and high-ranking army officers.

Ten accused of plot against the King scheduled to go on trial within a week

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The case of 10 people suspected of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein goes to military court within one week, but no exact date has been set for the trial, a senior security source said Sunday.

The source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, did not elaborate on the specific charges facing the 10, but said they were accused of belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation (Tahrir) Party (ILP). The party's aims, the source said, "are well-known, which is to topple the regime and replace it with an Islamic state."

Around 30 people, mainly students and staff members at Mu'ta's military university south of Amman, were arrested and detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID) in April and May for allegedly plotting to kill the King during a speech he was to give on June 26. But most of the detainees were released in the past two weeks, and the rest were transferred to a military prison in Zarqa last week where they await their trial.

The security source said that the public trial at the State Security Court will begin as soon as the investigation into the case is completed, adding that two of the 10 will be tried in absentia if they are not captured before the hearings start. The source described the suspects as a combination of "soldiers and civilians."

The Tahrir Party was established in the West Bank in the early 1980s, and had a representative in the Jordanian Parliament in 1986. Although the organisation is known to have plotted against the regime previously it has no history of carrying out terrorist activities to achieve its goals, principal among which is the creation of Caliphate-like Islamic states in the Arab World.

However, critics of the ILP, mainly the leftist parties of the 50s, had at the time accused the party, which did not enjoy much grassroots support, of receiving funds from the West.

Meanwhile, some of the detainees' parents were permitted to see their imprisoned sons on Sunday for the first time since their detentions. The security sources said that some other parents had visited their children on Friday.

Representatives of the International Red Cross (ICRC) also visited the detainees on Sunday, but they declined to comment on their situation. The head of the ICRC delegation in Amman, Michel Ducraux, also declined to confirm or deny allegations by some of the suspects' parents that their sons "were hidden from the ICRC representatives at the GID cells."

"I cannot comment on these allegations," Mr. Ducraux told the Jordan Times, "and I cannot give any details on the situation of the prisoners we visited today."

The ICRC has access to visit detainees at the GID and other prisons twice a month to inspect the treatment of the prisoners. But according to Nawaf Shdeifat, the father of Fu'ad,

19, who is one of the eight awaiting trial, the prisoners were temporarily removed from the prison at the GID so that the Red Cross representatives could not see them. Mr. Shdeifat, whose other son, Jihad, was released from the GID prison last Tuesday, said his sons complained that on the day of the ICRC regular visit to the GID prison, they were "blindfolded, handcuffed and separately taken to the offices at the department until the international representatives left the building."

Mr. Shdeifat, a merchant living in Zarqa and who said he represented all the parents of the detainees, contended that the prisoners were not allowed to see anyone, including lawyers, during their detention at the GID headquarters.

The fathers and brother of four detainees who spoke to the Jordan Times at a lawyer's office on Sunday described their sons as "devout Muslims," but claimed the young men were all "innocent of accusations of trying to kill our master (the King)."

But according to Nawaf Shdeifat, the father of Fu'ad,

Libya denounces Western ultimatum, says Security Council is browbeaten

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya denounced a Western deadline Sunday for the handover of a liner bomb blast suspects and diplomats said Tripoli was likely to run the risk of fresh sanctions rather than surrender the two men for trial in the United States or Britain.

The United States, France and Britain said Friday Libya would face further sanctions if it did not hand over by October 1 the alleged agents suspected in the 1988 Pan Am airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people aboard the plane and 11 on the ground where killed when it exploded.

The Security Council decided to maintain existing aviation, arms and diplomatic sanctions imposed 16 months ago. It wants also greater Libyan cooperation with a French investigation into the bombing of a UTA flight, which blew up over Niger on September 19, 1989, killing 171 people.

Libya, which denies any involvement in the Pan Am and UTA bombings, said the council's decision was a threat.

"The Libyan Arab people can only interpret this announcement as confirming the truth which has become clear to the world — namely the submission of the U.N. security council to the pressures of the major powers," the official news agency JANA said.

It said the foreign ministry was studying the statement by the Security Council and by the United States, France and Britain and would issue a declaration later.

But European and Arab diplomats in Tripoli say Libya is likely to run the risk of fresh sanctions rather than hand over its two compatriots.



Mammar Qadhafi

also asset freezes.

A "related-oil embargo" could cripple Libya," experts said. Libya has virtually no resources other than the 1.35 million barrels of high-quality crude it pumps daily.

The United States, accusing Tripoli of supporting "international terrorism," froze Libya's assets and imposed a trade embargo against it in January

1986. The ban, which includes oil equipment, is renewed each year.

"The renewal of sanctions just when the Libyan people expected them to be lifted, is proof that the security council continues to be subjected to pressure from the big powers," JANA said Sunday.

JANA said Libya failed to see why these three countries "continue to threaten Libya since this country has always expressed readiness to cooperate with the U.N. in the Lockerbie affair."

The release of the statement by the three states... implies threats," JANA said. "It shows they have not abandoned their threats in dealing with the crisis between them and the Great Jamahiriya (Libya)."

Recently progress has been reported in arranging the surrender of the men.

On Aug. 4, a U.N. spokesman said the United Nations and Libya were making progress in negotiations to bring the two Libyans to trial in Britain. Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Muntasser conferred earlier this month with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and delivered a new Libyan proposal.

Dr. Ghali said later it calls for the men to be delivered for trial.

Iran-bound Chinese ship shunned by Gulf ports

DUBAI (R) — A Chinese cargo ship accused by Washington of carrying banned chemical weapons additives for Iran marked time on the edge of the Gulf Sunday, shunned by nearby Arab ports and watched closely by the U.S. Navy.

Shipping sources said the exact position of the Yinhe, which entered the region more than a week ago with a cargo of Iran-bound containers, was not immediately known although it was believed to be in Iranian territorial waters.

Officials in Peking said the ship would anchor off Oman to take on fresh supplies of fuel and water but one shipping source said the Chinese had made no formal approach to the sultanate.

"Oman has not been approached for permission to allow the ship to anchor either inside or outside its territorial waters," a shipping executive in the sultanate said by telephone.

Shipping sources in the United Arab Emirates said the Yinhe, which was denied the right last week to unload its cargo in one of Dubai's ports, would not be allowed to anchor off the UAE.

"Supply companies are being closely watched to make sure they do not provide the Yinhe with services from UAE ports," said a shipping source in the UAE's Gulf of Oman port city of Fujairah just outside the Strait of Hormuz.

The official Chinese Xinhua news agency, quoting officials at the China Ocean Shipping Corporation, said on Saturday the Yinhe would anchor 15 miles off Oman "to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew," and take on new supplies of fuel and water.

But a shipping source in the UAE said, "the vessel is carrying hazardous materials and the UAE coast guard will not allow it to anchor in international waters off the UAE coast and I think the Omanis could do the same."

Shipping sources said Omani and UAE ports have been on the alert since the Xinhua report and the Omani coastguards were conducting "heavy patrols" of territorial waters.

"It is difficult to say if the Omanis will help. It is a political issue now and I cannot guess the outcome. I asked around and there is no word that the Yinhe is coming to Oman," the shipping executive in Muscat said.

The row between Washington and Peking has put added strain on Sino-U.S. relations, already beset by strong disagreements over trade policy and continued U.S. concern over Peking's arms sales and human rights record.

The United States says the Yinhe is attempting to transport banned ingredients for chemical weapons to Iran. It has been tracking the ship and has vowed to inspect its cargo.

Peking says the Iran-bound containers contain only paper goods, hardware and machine parts and has accused Washington of acting like "a self-anointed international policeman" by interfering in the ship's voyage.

It was not immediately clear why the ship did not dock directly in an Iranian port. One source said the ship "is closer to Iran than it is to the UAE."

But shipping executives in Dubai said the containers it was carrying were for trans-shipment to Iran and other cargo for several regional states.

"Dubai is the main trans-shipment hub to Iranian ports. It handles about 80 per cent of Iran's cargoes," one said. "Containers are rarely checked in Dubai and are never inspected here. Containers for Iran are usually off-loaded in Dubai and automatically put on a ship heading for Iran."

China said on Friday that the United States had rejected a Chinese suggestion that the Yinhe's cargo should be unloaded and then inspected by a third party.

Iran to get third sub

Russian will soon receive its third Russian-made submarine, navy commander Admiral Ali Shamkhani said.

In remarks published in Kayhan newspaper on Saturday, Mr. Shamkhani also said that naval bases at Abadan and Mahshahr in the northern Gulf had become operational again after damage caused during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war was repaired.

"To complete our fleet, Iran's third submarine will soon set out for its mission in our country's waters," Mr. Shamkhani said. He gave no date.

Iran, the only Gulf state operating submarines, ordered three Kilo-class vessels from Moscow. The second diesel-powered submarine arrived at Bandar Abbas at the Hormuz Strait this month. The first one was delivered last November.

Mr. Shamkhani reiterated that Iran wanted security in the Gulf to be provided collectively by regional states. A third of the world oil trade passes through the shallow waterway.



AFTER THE RAID: A Somali man tries to find his way past the rubble of a house of believed supporters of General Mohammed Farrah Aidid attacked in south Mogadishu Sunday by U.S. soldiers (AFP photo)

Rafsanjani's cabinet backed in Majlis debate

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's Majlis (parliament) began a debate on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's cabinet Sunday and most speakers supported his compromise reshuffle.

Deputies criticised performance of several ministers in the first five hours of debate, but there was no direct attack on any of the 23 proposed ministers, indicating that all might be approved in the vote set for Monday.

But newspapers said a few of the nominees, including Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh, might fail to get through or be approved by only a small margin.

"What I would like to see is the approval of all ministers with high votes," Mr. Rafsanjani, who started his second four-year term this month, told the assembly.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who has pledged to pursue a moderate foreign policy and continue free-market economic reforms, has retained 16 ministers at their posts, switched one to a different ministry and brought in six new faces.

Press reports earlier said the conservative majority of the Majlis wanted more than half of the cabinet changed.

Mr. Rafsanjani made clear he had prepared his list as a compromise, dropping ministers whom he approved of but was informed that the Majlis would not vote for.

"According to law, the Majlis is a party to deciding the cabinet."

Naturally we should pay attention to the views of the deputies, even if we do not agree with them," he said.

Mr. Rafsanjani said he had decided to move Akbar Torkan from the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces logistics to the road and transport portfolio because "we felt there was a problem in cooperation of armed forces."

He did not elaborate, but said a minister from either the army or the Revolutionary Guards could make the other feel discriminated against.

Mr. Torkan had been head of the army-affiliated defence industries before becoming minister in 1989. The proposed defence minister, Mohammad Forouzandeh, was commander of the main engineering base during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The other important change is the replacement of Interior Minister Abdullah Noori, criticised by conservatives as a radical holdover in the cabinet, by Ali Mohammad Besharati, currently deputy foreign minister.

The strongest criticism made in the debate was against the Oil Ministry, but it targeted one of Mr. Aghazadeh's deputies, not the minister personally.

Mohsen Yahyavi said Ahmad Rahgozar, who heads the National Petrochemical Company, tried to cover up and mislead the Majlis when its oil committee objected to a contract signed with a Norwegian firm.

PKK revolt enters 10th year

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Kurdish rebels begin their 10th year of guerrilla warfare with no letup to the bloodshed.

The government kept up a pounding offensive, assaulting a mountaintop stronghold near the Iraqi border and killing at least 57 rebels in the attacks, reports said, Saturday.

Officials in the war-torn southeast region that the guerrillas would like to turn into a separate Kurdistan reported at least 10 villagers died Saturday in a clash between police and protesters marking the anniversary.

Nine of the Kurdish villagers were killed in Digor, near the border with Armenia, when security forces battled some 1,500 demonstrators, the provincial governor in the area reported.

Nine years after the first battle launched by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, Turkey's southeastern region is gripped by a war pitting some 140,000 Turkish soldiers against a guerrilla force estimated at less than 10,000.

Since the fighting began on Aug. 15, 1984, Kurdish violence has spread beyond the southeast, where the majority of Turkey's Kurds live, to large cities and recently to resort areas.

Ahmet Cem Ersever, a recently retired army colonel who used to gather intelligence against Kurdish terrorism, has argued that the Turkish authorities underestimated the PKK at the very beginning.

"From a 200-person force they grew into a force of 10,000 in nine years," Ersever told the weekly Tempo.

Kurdish villagers are often caught between PKK violence and the Turkish army's oppression.

Five villagers were shot dead in Eskin village in Diyarbakir province by rebels who wanted to punish villagers they suspected of collaborating with the government against them.

Saying military might alone won't solve the guerrilla problem, Premier Tansu Ciller recently unveiled a development package for the impoverished, mountainous southeast, home to half the nation's 12 million Kurds. Turkey's overall population is 50 million.

But her suggestions to allow the use of Kurdish in broadcasting and education are being opposed by the army.

Turkey does not recognise Kurdish as an official language and restricts its use. In one of the concessions to the minority during the war, the government three years ago allowed Kurdish to be spoken in public.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi council's secretary general named

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd appointed Saturday a secretary general of a proposed national assembly promised as part of political reforms announced more than a year ago. In a decree issued by the official Saudi Press Agency, King Fahd appointed Hamoud Ben Abdul Aziz Ben Abdul Mohsen Al Badr secretary general of the proposed Shura (consultative) council whose members have yet to be appointed. The council would for the first time give Saudis outside the royal family a formal say in the running of the conservative state. Sheikh Badr is a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh. King Fahd had already appointed Mohammad Ben Ibrahim Ben Juberi as council speaker and Abdullah Ben Amr Nasif as deputy speaker. The king announced plans for the shura council in March last year as part of political reforms which would include a number of provincial advisory councils. The reforms also gave the kingdom its first written basic law alongside the Islamic Sharia code.

\$350 million to fly in immigrants to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has spent \$352 million to fly 440,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union over the last three years, the Jewish agency said Sunday. Each immigrant cost an average of \$739 for an air ticket and the shipping of personal effects, said the agency which oversees immigration. Another 80,000 immigrants are expected to arrive in Israel this year, most of them from the ex-Soviet empire.

Israel to rule on Demjanjuk retrial Wednesday

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's supreme court will rule Wednesday whether John Demjanjuk, acquitted of charges he was a Nazi guard, should face a second trial for other alleged war crimes, the justice ministry said. "The ruling on the eight petitions submitted to the supreme court... against Ivan John Demjanjuk will be given Wednesday, 18 Aug. 1993 at 9.00 a.m. (0600 GMT)," the ministry said in an announcement Sunday.

Grenade explosion kills one in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A hand grenade exploded in the hand of 10-year-old boy in western Iran, killing him and injuring eight others, the daily Jomhuri Eslami said Sunday. The boy, Kamran Falahzadeh, suffered a "grizzly death" as the grenade blew up in his hand in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood in the city of Hamadan last Tuesday, it said. Eight people were also injured in the accident. The paper said police were investigating to determine the origin of the grenade.

Wild cat terrorises upper Egyptian town

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — An Upper Egyptian town often ravaged by Muslim militant violence fell prey to a new danger — a roaming wild cat. Officials in Dayrut, 270 kilometres south of Cairo, said the wild cat attacked 18 children over the past few nights, nearly ripping one child's ear off before it was hunted down and shot dead on Saturday, local security sources said on Sunday. The cat had a reddish coat and was slightly larger than a dog but its species was not immediately known. Residents said the town resounded with gunfire over the past few days as townsfolk nervous of the "lioness" shot at anything that moved. Officials said it was scared out of its normal habitat in the rocky hills overlooking the Nile Valley when workers started to dynamite a path to lay a new highway from Cairo to the southern resort of Aswan. All but one of the cat's victims were now out of hospital, the sources said. Dayrut has been under curfew and virtual police siege for much of the past 18 months as militants in the area fight security forces and pick off members of the Christian minority in their struggle to set up a purist Islamic state in Egypt.

Woman arrested on charges of faking rape

NICOSIA (AP) — A woman from Sri Lanka was arrested Saturday on charges that she faked a gang rape, possibly in hopes of getting 50,000 pounds (\$100,000) in government compensation, court officials said. A Nicosia court ordered Jayawardana Gonnage Chandani Nilmini, 25, held for at least four days on charges of public mischief. Ms. Nilmini claimed on Aug. 5 that she was bound and raped by three men in a Nicosia home, where she worked as a maid, and that a woman recorded the scene with a video camera. Ms. Nilmini's story and resulting police manhunt made front page news in Cyprus. Prosecutor Philippos Vrontos said police began questioning her allegations after she wrote to President Glafos Clerides to ask for 50,000 pounds (\$100,000) in compensation for her ordeal. Mr. Vrontos claimed in court that Ms. Nilmini admitted lying after eight days of police investigation, including the publication of composite photographs of the supposed rapists, failed to turn up any clues. Ms. Nilmini, who appeared without a lawyer, said little during her brief court appearance. Judge Leonidas Pappanitis said the court would provide her with legal counsel for her trial.

Group says it foiled assassination bid

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian group said on Sunday bodyguards foiled an attempt by agents paid by Israel to assassinate one of its leaders in Beirut. The group, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, said it would avenge the attack. Six gunmen tried to assassinate Mohammad Abu Samra, a member of its central leadership, a few days ago and clashed with his bodyguards, it said in a statement. One of the attackers was wounded in the clash and two others were later captured by security forces. "This attempt by the Zionist enemy's paid agents followed the active role by our group and its fighters in the seven-day war and occupied lands. Our answer will be delivered in the proper place, proper way and at the proper time," it warned. The Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine fired Katyusha rockets at northern Israel during a seven-day Israeli offensive on South Lebanon last month. "Our Jihad (holy war) will be intensified and God willing will rage on until victory and liberation," the group said. It gave no more details of the attackers and said reporting the incident was delayed so the gunmen could be tracked down.

POSITION VACANCY PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH AND POSTPARTUM SERVICES)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a vacancy for a Project Management Specialist in its Office of Population and Family Health. The incumbent will serve as Project Manager of a new Comprehensive Postpartum Project and advise USAID management on aspects relating to maternal and child health and population programme planning and development needs in Jordan. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and prior work experience. The position requires:

1. A Bachelor's degree in health or allied fields. Preference will be given to holders of Master's or Ph.D. degrees in public health or population dynamics.
2. Four to seven years of progressively responsible professional level experience in health programme management, including experience in analysis and interpretation of data and presentation of findings in written and oral form is required. However, graduate degrees, such as M.A., M.S., M.P.H., Ph.D. etc., may be substituted for a portion of the work experience. At least two years of the work experience should have been in responsible development assistance or related work for a national or an international organisation.
3. A thorough knowledge of Jordan's health sector — both public and private — and health care issues and needs.
4. Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages — both writing and speaking — is required.

Interested Jordanian candidates who believe they have the required qualifications and work experience to fill this position may apply, in writing, submitting an application to the USAID Executive Office/Personnel Section, together with a sample writing skills and documentation supporting qualifications, no later than August 26, 1993. Application forms are available at the American Embassy — front gate.

FOR RENT

Ground floor fully-furnished apartment with garden and garage in Jabal Amman Fourth Circle area, near Al Khalidi Hospital. Three bedrooms, salon and dining, sitting room, and all facilities. Please call 642789 between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.

LOCAL ORGANISATION IS SEEKING A JORDANIAN FEMALE

- Graduate of Faculty of Engineering
 - Fluent in English & Arabic
 - Well-organised
 - Highly motivated and energetic
 - Works well with people
 - Dynamic & Hard working
- For more information please call 658696

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Retour a Smarand
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls
21:10 Thirty Something
22:00 News in English
22:20 Colombo

PRAYER TIMES

04:31 Fajr
05:55 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:40 Dhuhr
16:19 'Asr
19:25 Maghreb
20:49 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfish, Tel. 811740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 63843
Artisan Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 19 / 34
Aqaba 26 / 39
Deserts 18 / 37
Jordan Valley 23 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730
Dr. Jamal Al Ja'bari 796460
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Mahmoud Amir 888883
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shimoon pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (—)
Aldous pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walod Halasa 982799
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Fire Brigade 391228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 63101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661128
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Alkhalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palastine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Shmeisani Hospital 845645
Al-Mushter Hospital 667277
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Abdrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marja 801611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86722
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:15 Sanaa (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:00 Bangkok (RJ)
13:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
13:00 Rhodes (RJ)
13:00 New Delhi (RJ)
09:45 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Aden (AL)
11:15 Khartoum (SU)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:00 Istanbul (TK)
17:45 Amsterdam (KL)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Dubai (EM)
22:05 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
01:45 Dubai (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (LH)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:20 Moscow (RJ)
15:00 Doha, Riyadh (RJ)
21:00 Doha, Riyadh (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Aden (AL)
12:15 Khartoum (SU)
16:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
16:35 Istanbul (TK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apples 380/200
Apricots 440/340
Bananas 680 / 680
Bananas (Mulkumar) 100 / 100
Beans 520 / 330
Cabbage 100 / 30
Carrot 280/220
Cauliflower 180 / 100
Cherry (red) 750/600
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 170 / 120
Eggplant 170 / 30
Garlic 700 / 500
Grapes 300/200
Lemon 580 / 470
Marrow (large) 240/200
Marrow (small) 250 / 200
Mint 30
Onion (dry) 650/530
Onion (dry) 140 / 70
Orange 240/200
Peaches 600/500
Pepper (hot) 300 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 220
Potato 200 / 150
Tomato 240/150
Watermelon 140/80

Queen inaugurates Children's Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne, Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the Children's Bank.

A branch of the Housing Bank located at the Haya Cultural Centre, the Children's Bank aims at familiarising youth with the concept of banking and encouraging them to save money.

The Queen was received by Inam Al Mufti, president of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and Zuhair Khouri, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Housing Bank.

Queen Noor toured the bank premises and was briefed by Mr. Khouri on the philosophy and objectives of the branch.

Later, she toured various wings at the Haya Cultural Centre including the astrological dome, for which NHF provided equipment with help from the Japanese government.

The Queen also visited the Science Museum, which was founded in 1986 by NHF in cooperation with the Haya Cultural Centre. The experiments and demonstrations displayed at the



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday tours a unit of the Haya Cultural Centre. Accompanying the Queen here are her daughters Princesses Raya and Princess Inman, as well as Princess Ghida Talal (Petra photo).

museum were developed and provided for by the centre's personnel.

Queen Noor is interested in further developing the museum in order to meet the needs of the children and linking it to developments in science and technology.

As an outreach programme for the Science Museum, the Mobile Life and Science Museum was initiated in 1988. It delivers services to children who have no access to such facilities. The museum's exhibits relate

to the experiences of rural children and focus on health and hygiene, sciences, preservation of the environment, and the history of Jordan.

Queen Noor also toured the theatre, the library and the arts wing, which have been renovated to meet the changing needs of the children.

Accompanying the Queen were their Royal Highnesses Princess Ghida Talal, Princess Raya, Princess Inman and Miss Abir Muheisen.

49.2% of women support female quota for House — Petra survey

AMMAN (Petra) — An opinion poll conducted on a sample of 400 women by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at the beginning of August showed that 49.25 per cent of the respondents support (a quota) assigning seats for women in the next Lower House of Parliament which will be elected in November.

Of the women polled, 56.25 per cent said they would vote in the elections.

The poll surveyed women over 19 years old, living in different areas of Jordan, and of varying cultural backgrounds.

More than 52 per cent of the women were employed by the private or public sectors, nearly 18 per cent were housewives and more than nine per cent were students.

More than 63 per cent had university degrees and 2.5 per cent were illiterate. The survey revealed that 27 per cent of the women said they will

support female candidates in the November elections and 49.75 per cent said they believed that relatives and acquaintances will strongly influence women's decisions on voting.

Only 18.5 per cent of the women in the survey believed that women will turn out in strength to cast ballots in the coming elections, and 68 per cent said that cultural background will have the greatest influence on women's participation in the elections.

According to the results of the survey, some women opposed the quota for women in parliamentary seats because they said that democracy requires that women and men should run on equal terms.

Those who backed the women's quota said that this practice should be followed only for one or two elections so that the people become accustomed to seeing women in Parliament.

Majali urges water recycling, modern techniques in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday urged the Ministry of Agriculture to use the treated waste water from Khirbet Al Samra plant to irrigate trees in lands surrounding the plant and encourage the utilisation of drip irrigation systems.

Addressing a meeting by the ministry's Planning Committee, Dr. Majali said that planting forest trees will contribute towards greening the Kingdom, an objective set for the year 2000.

Stressing the importance of trees in preventing soil erosion and contributing to a healthier environment, the prime minister said trees can also help promote the tourism industry.

Dr. Majali emphasised the need for ministry departments to

work towards increasing food production, adding that ministry engineers and extension staff should provide advice and guidance directly to farmers on modern techniques and applying drip irrigation which proved to be immensely successful.

The prime minister underlined the importance of decentralising the ministry and said that an employee incentive system should be adopted and excellent staff should be awarded.

The committee members briefed the premier on the ministry's projects including conducting agricultural surveys, combating rodents in the Irbid governorate and other matters pertaining to the agricultural sector.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal, who heads the commit-

tee, presented a report on the outcome of his recent visit to China and the Chinese experiments in seed production, food industries and the creation of integrated farms.

Noting that the rodent problem has been contained, Dr. Kamal reported that crops on 300 dunums of land were damaged by the pests.

Discussion at the meeting touched on a three-stage programme of soil classification in Jordan, a project which started in 1989 and was financed by a grant from the European Community (EC). The project is being implemented in cooperation with a British firm at an overall cost of four million ECUs (European Currency Units).

Training centre offers 4 new courses

AIN AL BASHA (Petra) — Minister of Labour Khaled Al Ghazawi Sunday opened training courses for four specialised trades currently in demand in the local labour market.

The new courses are being offered by the Ain Al Basha Vocational Training Centre, which also offers training in 18 other trades.

The courses opened by the minister in a formal ceremony here, are in hairdressing, baking, industrial garment-making and

radio and television maintenance.

The centre's director, Younis Khanfar, briefed Mr. Ghazawi on the development of the various trades and the programmes offered to trainees.

Mr. Khanfar noted that the centre, offers wide-ranging training programmes lasting between several months and two years, depending on the nature of the trade.

So far the centre, which is run by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), has turned out

8,000 graduates who obtained practical training at 578 privately owned businesses and workshops in the Amman area.

Also 800 job-seekers were offered short-term training in central heating, plumbing, sanitation, construction, auto mechanics and electricity, said Mr. Khanfar.

In cooperation with the Ain Al Basha Municipality, the centre has created a new line of trades for females, Mr. Khanfar added.

Princess Sarvath welcomes Red Cross, Red Crescent campers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Sunday opened an international youth camp organised by the Jordan National Red Crescent Societies (JNRCS) at Amman's Crown Hotel.

In an address at the opening ceremony, Princess Sarvath welcomed the participants who represent Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine,

Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Spain, in addition to Jordan.

"I would like to welcome all of you today, and particularly those who have come to our country from far and wide to participate in this summer camp which the Jordanian Red Crescent is proud to be hosting," Princess Sarvath said.

"The world is facing many conflicts and tragedies, and we in the movement must always remember Article 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights which says 'all human beings should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood,'" she said.

"Sadly, though, we continue to come across those for whom these words still have no meaning, but nevertheless we must always stand firm to our commit-

ment to universal ideals. In an address to the World Conference on Human Rights held recently in Vienna, my husband, Crown Prince Hassan, said 'we are responsible for the future that awaits our children, and humanity as a whole, for abuses of human rights offend the dignity of not only the victims, but of us all. We are all members of one family — humanity — sharing our one Earth in common. At great

cost we have learned the importance of caring for the Earth — we must also learn to care for those that live on it.'

The Princess expressed hope that the 100 participants in the week-long camp will form friendships with each other that

will create strong and everlasting bonds between the youth movements of their countries.

Orthodox society, AUB sign education agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Orthodox Educational Society in Amman and the American University of Beirut (AUB) Sunday signed a cultural and educational cooperation agreement, under which the university will contribute to developing the educational process at the society's school. The development areas include curricula, teacher training and training of administrative staff at the society's schools, which accommodate 2,200 students.

Under the agreement, the society will pay the university \$18,000 per annum, in addition to costs of training and development activities.

The agreement was signed for the society by its President Fuad Farraj, while for the AUB it was signed by its vice-president for educational research, development and external training, Abdul Hamid Halab.

On the occasion, a ceremony for exchanging agreement documents was held, during which both Dr. Halab and Mr. Farraj spoke about the importance of this agreement and its role in upgrading educational standards of the society's schools to levels similar to those of the best foreign schools.

In his address, Mr. Farraj said that society takes pride in its educational achievements of the past 35 years, which included the founding of prosperous and well-reputed educational institutions at both the local and foreign levels. He voiced pride in signing the agreement, saying it opens a new chapter of distinguished educational cooperation with the AUB.

The society's administrative committees and its successive committee and councils have worked hard through the available means and resources to develop its educational institutions, until it achieved its present, unique status, which is characterised by efficiency, Mr. Farraj said.

He added that the society had constructed over the past three years a new, modern building for its Ashrafieh kindergarten and school. It also built a modern wing, an additional theatre stage at Wahbeh Tamari Kindergarten and a new building for administrative and the necessary educational services at the Shmeisani school, including a centre for educational resources, a language laboratory and additional science laboratory, a health care

centre, a modern library, warehouses, a vocational training workshop, a fully-equipped home economics training hall, a multi-purpose room, rooms for coordinators and sports activities.

Mr. Farraj added that the society had worked hard to upgrade the professional performance of its teachers, by sending them on educational scholarships to obtain diplomas of higher education, masters degree, on-the-job training and involving them in specialised training courses held inside and outside the country.

The society has directed, over the past three years, great attention to developing the use of the various educational resources, having made the necessary plans to achieve this," Mr. Farraj said.

The society had purchased modern computers and assigned for each student new computer to replace the old ones.

All Shmeisani school-teachers are now being trained on using the computers as part of a computer training programme. The school library will be computerised as soon as the library is modernised. Work is also underway to provide modern and advanced laboratory for teaching languages.

Mr. Farraj also said that a teaching resource unit has been established at the Shmeisani school to serve all teachers at the society's schools. The unit was equipped with the necessary educational equipment as well as a video library for various subjects.

However, the society will continue to update this video library because of its importance to the teaching-learning process. Computers and other educational means have now become a necessity for all fields, particularly education, Mr. Farraj said.

The accelerated educational developments and innovations have affected all spheres, including methods of education, educational programmes, various educational services, teacher training, educational counselling and other educational activities which, together, seek to encourage innovation and creativity.

In its search to achieve these goals, the society has been looking for an educational institution, capable of helping the society achieve the sought educational development. This explains the society's selection of the AUB, which enjoys a vast



educational experience in the Middle East.

The AUB has graduated prominent education leaders from our region and from Jordan in particular. The university also took part in a number of studies on educational issues in our region, and has contributed towards educational developments in a scientific manner. Moreover, the university has been keen on keeping pace with scientific and educational developments. Winding up his address, Mr. Farraj said the agreement was the culmination of various meetings and contacts between representatives of the society and the AUB in Amman and Beirut. These meetings were initiated in April.

For his part, Dr. Halab lauded the agreement with the Orthodox Educational Society, saying that it represents a new phase in the society's life. He voiced confidence that the agreement will add a new chapter to the Orthodox Schools' outstanding record in serving and developing the community.

"The AUB, as you know, has been striving for more than a decade and a quarter to achieve its educational aim, that of providing the rising generations with a better life," Dr. Halab said. He added that this is the message of the university which has been launched by its founder Daniel Blass in 1866.

The AUB knows well that some of its graduates were from among the students of the Orthodox schools, and that many of them have held senior positions and made great contributions to Jordan and the Arab World.

The university, while signing this agreement with

the Orthodox School today, is pursuing its purpose. The AUB has felt that it was not enough for it to receive, students and offer them quality education but it should extend a helping hand to educational institutions and support them in achieving and developing their educational targets.

Therefore, he said, the relation between the university and the society is based on mutual cooperation. The essence of this relation is education, culture, progress and development, he said.

The university, while initiating this contractual agreement with the Orthodox School today, pledges to remain open for cooperation with all schools and educational institutions which share its aims regarding education, progress and development.

Dr. Halab thanked the school for the hospitality accorded to him and for its confidence in the AUB, and relayed the gratitude of his colleague, Dr. Mounir Bashour, head of the Education Department at the AUB.

The agreement, which takes effect immediately after the signing by the two parties concerned, provided for the following:

1. The AUB will provide advisory services in the administrative and organisational areas and the development of curricula and educational programmes, including the GCE, computer training, language training (English and French), development of library activities, laboratories, educational materials used in the society's schools and various activities and student counselling services.

Such advisory services will take the form of field

visits by staff from the AUB, in accordance with field visit schedules agreed upon by both parties.

Both parties will determine whether additional advisory services are needed during meetings in Beirut to be agreed upon by both parties.

2. Holding education workshops for teaching and/or administrative staff in the necessary areas, agreed upon by both parties.

Workshops are designed to upgrade the professional standards of staff at the society's educational institutions in Amman.

3. Training and teaching administrative staff at workshops and training courses held by the AUB in Beirut. Any announcement in the media of this agreement requires the prior consent of both parties of the advertisement text, timing and means.

4. Any dispute or misunderstanding about the interpretation, application or implementation of this agreement shall be referred to an arbitrator agreed upon by both parties. The ruling of the arbitrator, or arbitrators, which is taken by consensus or majority vote, shall be final and binding on both parties and shall not be subject to contesting by either party. Arbitration shall take place in Beirut, Lebanon, in accordance with the Lebanese laws.

The agreement shall be of a one-year duration.

The AUB is party to educational training and development agreements held with the state Jordanian universities. Attending the AUB are more than 200 Jordanian students. The university gives priority to Jordanian students with high grades.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebbel Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- * Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

- * Exhibition entitled "Hasbeme Paintings" by Jordanian artist Iyad Al Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammed Hussein Jaldi and Shawkat Al Aouni at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of paintings by a group of young Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.




Opening Tomorrow

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية المستقلة

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Brutality breeds violence

ON SATURDAY, Egyptian Chief Judge Wahid Mahmoud Ibrahim, presiding over a special security court, acquitted 24 defendants accused of assassinating Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub on Oct. 12, 1990. Judge Ibrahim said his court had found that all the defendants were severely tortured and one partially paralysed as a result. The judge said the defendants "were subjected to the ugliest forms of torture, including electric shock, hanging by the arms, blindfolding and handcuffing."

Noting that none of 100 witnesses the state produced had identified any of the alleged assassins, the judge said that "the judiciary's conscience rejects these ugly methods. The acts of the security authorities reflect their shortcomings in discovering proof."

Had Judge Ibrahim possessed the mandate to judge the political system in Egypt there is no doubt he would have gone on to describe the shortcomings of a security regime that rounds people up at random, tortures them and makes them sign false confessions. The war that this regime is waging against Islamists and the methods it uses in the process have been condemned by all human rights organisations and by friends of Egypt in the West.

Arbitrary arrests, torture that leads to disability and at times death, are symptomatic of a regime that seems to have lost its way in dealing with its people and opponents. We do not of course condone any acts of violence committed by the opponents of the regime no matter how just their cause or grievances are. However, we believe that unjustified brutality and repression cannot be the answer to any problem. Reform, justice and democracy are, on the other hand, a sure way to tackle Egypt's woes head on. We are all aware, or should be, that whatever happens in Egypt in these trying and uncertain times is bound to have a big impact on all neighbouring countries. That is why we view with utmost concern the disturbing political developments in the most populous Arab country. And that is why we expect all advocates of human rights, especially Arabs, to emulate the decency and courage of Judge Ibrahim in rejecting the brutal methods of the Egyptian security apparatus, which continue to push a sizeable portion of its population to the extreme limits of radicalisation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY ISSUING an ultimatum to Libya to hand over the two nationals allegedly involved in the downing of an American airliner over Scotland, the U.S., France and Britain are threatening to starve the Libyan people for no crime they committed, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. While issuing threats and imposing sanctions in the most racist and terrorist manner against the Arabs and Muslims, these Western nations, masquerading as the United Nations, are overlooking, if not condoning, Israel's barbaric actions and violations of human rights, let alone its continued occupation of Arab lands, said the daily. Israel's actions in defiance of the world community, its refusal to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions and other daily practices against the oppressed people of Palestine are together a manifestation of disregard of international rules, and escaping retribution for its actions, said the daily. These three nations, which are responsible in history for the death of millions of innocent people, are appointing themselves as the police of the world, biased in their actions and turning their venom against their enemies under the protection and umbrella of the United Nations, added the daily. France, the U.S. and Britain have committed atrocities against the Vietnamese, the Algerians, the Yemenis, the Irish, the Somalis and the Iraqis, to name a few, and they are now finding a pretext to impose their domination on the Arabs through accusing two Libyan nationals of being behind the Lockerbie affair, continued the paper. It said that it goes without saying that these Western nations, which have their eyes on the Arab World's oil wealth, are victimising the innocent people of Libya, depriving them of their food and basic necessities.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said Sunday that the foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace process should not make of their coordination meetings a regular habit or simply meet to reaffirm their united stand. The writer called on the ministers, who are to meet on Aug. 20 in Beirut to demand that the U.S.-Israeli alliance disband the so-called Lahad army, announce a programme for gradual Israeli withdrawal from the southern regions of Lebanon and declare a compensation plan benefitting the residents of southern Lebanon who lost their homes in the latest Israeli aggression. With regard to Jerusalem in the peace talks, said the writer, the foreign ministers have a responsibility to insist that the status of the Holy City tops the Arab-Israeli peace agenda, demanded the writer. He said that Arab Jerusalem was part of the Palestinian Arab land occupied in the 1967 war and no one can deny this fact. He said that Israel's continued occupation of the city represents a flagrant defiance of the feelings of millions of believers in God. By excluding the Jerusalem question from the talks, said the writer, Israel is aiming at cancelling for ever the fact that the Holy City falls under the sovereignty of the Arab and Muslim nations.

Kuwaitis — once again a minority at home

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

KUWAIT — Under the scorching desert sun, now as before, Bangladeshis collect the garbage, Indians keep the parks green, Iraqis do the fishing, Filipinos wash cars and wait tables.

From their air-conditioned homes, offices and cars, Kuwait's pampered citizens have watched the fizzling of the social revolution many had envisioned after the liberation from Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

When the Gulf war was over, the government started a "Kuwaitisation" programme aimed at drastically reducing the number of foreign workers. But Abdullah Al Nibani, a member of parliament, said the plan "has evaporated."

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, foreign workers were nearly 80 per cent of the 2.2 million people living in Kuwait. The announced goal of the government programme was to cut that figure in half.

The invasion galvanised many Kuwaitis who found it rewarding to fend for themselves, and the 650,000 native Kuwaitis were a majority for a short time after the war because most foreigners had fled.

Foreigners are streaming back, however, and native Kuwaitis make up a steadily declining share of the population. Once again they are a minority — 40 per cent of the emirate's 1.6 million people, according to the latest official statistics.

Economic recovery has been

slowed because the government expelled the 400,000 Palestinians in retaliation for PLO support of Saddam Hussein. Palestinians had lived in Kuwait for decades, forming the core of the work force and filling most middle-management jobs.

Rebuilding the shattered military also has been difficult because young Kuwaitis are reluctant to enlist. Stateless Arabs, usually of Iraqi or Syrian origin, were the backbone of the prewar army, but many have been dismissed because of questions about their loyalty.

Kuwait's dependence on foreign labour began when it started exporting oil in 1946. The oil boom brought unexpected riches to its people, mostly bedouin, and turned the emirate into one of the world's wealthiest countries.

It became a magnet for impoverished Asians and Arabs. The Kuwaitis, pampered by a welfare state that saw to all their needs, were content to let others do the work.

Fuad Al Hashem, a columnist for the daily Al Watan, lamented: "Before that, you could find Kuwaiti mechanics, artisans, house servants, whatever. It's very different now. We've become a community of cellular telephones and pagers. This is a dangerous phenomenon. It's sad to see Kuwaitis distracted by these machines and producing nothing."

The ruling Al Sabah family has been careful over the years to keep their people quiescent and content. The government em-

ploys about 90 per cent of the 100,000 Kuwaitis who work, and pays them an estimated \$6.3 billion a year. Salaries are the largest budget item, roughly equal to the 1992-1993 deficit.

In addition to generous salaries, the government payroll offers short working hours, job security and supervisors who overlook low productivity.

Since the war, the government has made up all pay its Kuwaiti employees lost, raised salaries 25 per cent, covered billions of dollars in mortgage and other losses, increased aid to Kuwaiti men who marry Kuwaiti women, raised the monthly child allowance from \$100 to \$175 and made assistance to widows more generous.

"It's as if the government wants to put people to sleep... to stop them thinking and asking questions," Mr. Al Hashem wrote. "The government has made no effort to inject life into them."

Mr. Al Nibani, an economist, said: "Poor management has led to low productivity by Kuwaitis. It will take time, training and education to change that. The problem can't be solved overnight. In the short term, it's a good thing there are people to do the menial jobs Kuwaitis refuse to do — and for low wages," he said, but added that dependence on foreign labour may create cultural and social problems.

He expects the most serious to be the government's inability to absorb all the young job-seekers who will flood the market in a few years. About 60 per cent of Kuwaitis are 19 or younger.

Weekly Political Pulse

Israeli — PLO direct talks are imminent

Whether the "resignation" of Faisal Hussein, Hanan Ashrawi and Dr. Saeb Erakat, the three Palestinian delegates to the bilateral peace talks with Israel, from their position as negotiators on behalf of the Palestinian people was for real or a mere theatrical performance, the end result is the same: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is edging closer to direct and open contacts and negotiations with Israel.

In fact, the more one examines the developments that preceded and accompanied the "resignation" chapter, the more it becomes irrefutable that the intents and purposes of all the principle actors in scene one, two and three were to get Israel and the PLO ever closer to direct and public dealings based on mutual recognition.

So there were few surprises when Mr. Hussein, Mrs. Ashrawi and Mr. Erakat withdrew their resignation, or had their resignation rejected by the PLO Executive Committee, in a remarkable and dramatic show of Palestinian democracy.

If the 11th round of bilateral peace talks is going to live up to the current expectations and go down in the annals of the Arab-Israeli peace process as the determining chapter in the peace parleys, then the Palestinian domestic performance, especially between the tenth and eleventh session of the negotiations, coupled with the Israeli public and private reaction to it can only be seen as setting the stage for the final show or showdown on the most critical part of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

In retrospect, the Palestinian orchestration of the events that led to the resignation of the three negotiators was masterful. For a while, the Tunis-based PLO leadership appeared to be more flexible and conciliatory than the "local Palestinian leadership." On the issue of Jerusalem, for example, the PLO chairman appeared to be more "accommodating" than Mr. Hussein and his colleagues on the Palestinian team by offering to accept delaying the negotiations

determining its future until a later stage. It will be recalled that the negotiators from the West Bank were all of the same mind on the need to "mention" East Jerusalem for the interim agreements purposes, as well.

The Israeli side did not seem to take the PLO bite publicly, but there are strong signals from the incumbent Israeli leadership that the time of reckoning has indeed arrived and that they must deal directly and openly with the PLO, which is alone capable of delivering when it comes to solid agreements and significant concessions.

This is in essence what the PLO wanted to say all along to the Rabin government where it already enjoys considerable acceptance by several key ministers. The Israeli Labour-led government is inching slowly but surely to the inevitability of talking straight with the PLO leadership. This projection is further reinforced by the PLO decision to give the three Palestinian negotiators official titles within the PLO hierarchy.

When Israel talks with them in September, it will be dealing in effect with PLO officials. There is no escape from this conclusion.

Against this backdrop, there is now a heightened expectation that the upcoming round of talks will be a harbinger of real breakthrough in the peace process. There will be many other snags along the way for sure. One of the biggest hurdles facing the Israeli-Palestinian track was over the issue of the role of the PLO in the peace talks. This controversy is now behind us and with its resolution there is naturally a sense of euphoria that the remaining dimensions of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will begin to unravel in the 11th round. Coupled with the apparent readiness of the Rabin government to withdraw completely from the Golan Heights, in return for complete peace with Damascus, there is no reason why the next few peace sessions will not produce results to the near satisfaction of the other parties.

LETTERS

Colonels, too, have opinion

To the Editor:

I am extremely sorry for causing such an uproar regarding my letter to the editor published in the Jordan Times of Aug. 5, 1993. I realise that others would like to write on other issues but I would appreciate if I could clarify once and for all my remarks to those angry and discontented few who, I wish, read my letter very thoroughly before replying.

It seems to me that I have touched on issues I should not have tackled and I would like to thank P.V. Vivekanand who labelled me as a writer of a journalistic masterpiece and an analyst, which I never claimed to be or aspire to be.

For his information, I am an educated person, even colonels in the army are educated, and I hold two degrees from the University of New Hampshire in the United States and speak French and very fluent English and read the Arab and foreign papers and watch the CNN and I have watched the homeless sleeping in carton boxes in the streets and the subways in New York.

We in Jordan do not have that because we have our own values. My past history has nothing to do with the letter, by the way, and I did not write it to impress anybody. After 19 years of service, I feel that I have done my duty to my country which gave me the security and the future. My letter was not meant to hurt or insult and I did mention Jordanians as well, but they failed to mention that and picked the issues which they felt affected their own interest. But truth sometimes hurts.

I am not aspiring to a post nor to enter election or to be known in the mass media.

Anyway, I am sorry for that mistake, but I wonder, why, we, as Jordanians and citizens of this country that has the highest rate of educated people and degree holders cannot write or comment on issues that affect our values. These values cannot be imported, exported, hired, bought or borrowed. They are inherited in our culture, homes, traditions, tribal affiliations, hospitality, morality. I cannot impose our values on others nor others can impose or dictate on us how to behave, walk, eat, clean because that is our business and I wonder who appointed those few to tell us in the newspapers on how to run our lives.

We as Jordanians know what our problems are and we can solve them according to our limitations, but if the letters to the editor are being ordained to a few and privileged ones, then I withdraw my remarks and apologise.

I have not received any calls from any official or given moral support nor do I need any because I stand by what I wrote and I will leave the judgment on my letter to the public and to those who know what I mean by the values of Jordan.

I would like to thank the Jordan Times for giving the time to clarify my position which was wrongly interpreted.

Col. (Ret.) Nasser Mirza,
Jordan Valley Arabian Stud,
Amman.

Water vs. tissue paper

To the Editor:

I address the following letter to Ann Sawalha and Col. Nasser Mirza.

I have read the dialogue going on in the Jordan Times about sanitation and hygiene and would like to mention a few things.

First, we live in a civilised and clean country, but we might sometimes, unwittingly and inadvertently, overlook cleanliness in public utilities and we apologise for this.

But this should not mean that we are responsible, as you have said, for ensuring the permanent presence of tissue paper in public toilets.

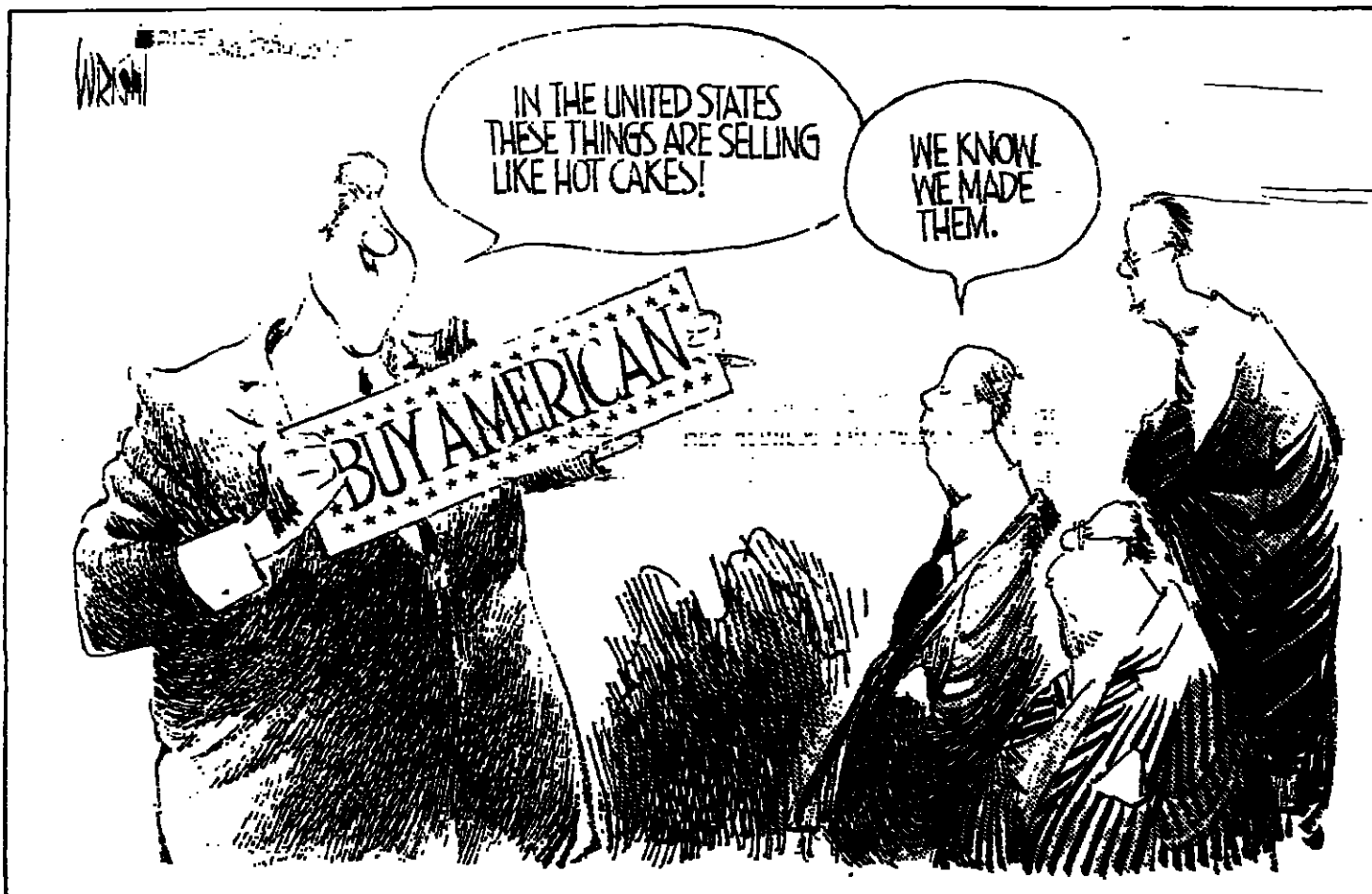
Second, we as a Muslim country realise too well the meaning and importance of cleanliness and our religion orders us to be clean. Our religion, according to the Koran, calls for the use of water, whenever it is available, for cleanliness, but there is no mention of tissue paper.

I say to Mrs. Sawalha that we knew the meaning and importance of cleanliness ages before she was born because cleanliness was ordered by God through his Holy Book. There are a Muslim, educated people with generous characters and manners.

If a vandal has sabotaged public utilities, this does not mean that the whole community is in need of education.

I thank the Jordan Times for publishing the letters and I ask that such dialogues be not restricted to those who have a strong command of the English language because most of our people have not received education abroad. I hope that the dialogue can be translated into Arabic so that we can comment on it in the Arabic language.

N. Hijazi,
Amman.



Fundamentalist groups said to seek coordination

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Violent Islamic fundamentalist groups were linked only loosely for decades but now appear to be coming together with the encouragement of radical elements in Iran.

There are signs that the militants are forging alliances to overthrow secular Arab governments and present a cohesive challenge to the West.

Such coordination could move money, weapons and expertise among the groups more effectively, and vastly increase the difficulty of tracing those who plan and carry out acts of violence.

Specialists say getting such diverse organisations to cooperate takes time, and that any coordinated actions could be months away.

An important step towards united action may have been a meeting Feb. 2-7 in the Iranian capital, according to diplomats who monitor Iranian affairs, and security sources in Syria, Jordan and Cyprus.

They said the Tehran meeting brought together senior Iranian intelligence officials and representatives of militant groups to formulate a blueprint for "Islamic revolutionary action."

The Iranians, who are Shiite Muslims, have sought to increase cooperation between Shiite and Sunni Muslim radicals, who often lack coordination because they represent different branches of Islam.

Iran has long wanted a coalition of this sort and the time is right, given the tide of Islamic revivalism. Iran and its proxies now seem to be able to operate a long way from home and there seems to be much more coordination.

The sources who described the February meeting said there was agreement in principle on a new strategy against the secular Arab governments of Egypt, Algeria and Jordan, as well as the Turkish government. Assassinations would be one tool, but details were to be worked out later, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Violent campaigns by Islamic fundamentalists already are under way in Egypt and Algeria. Another decision made at the Tehran meeting was to step up action against Iranian dissidents, particularly the Mujahideen Khalq, the main rebel movement, the sources said. The Mujahideen, based in Iraq, have become more active lately.

Iran established a budget of \$500 million, effective with the start of the Iranian new year March 21, to underwrite violent actions around the world, the sources reported.

They also said delegates to the meeting discussed resuming the seizure of American hostages if U.S. authorities carried out their threat to hunt down those who kidnapped Americans in Lebanon and bombed U.S. airliners. Former AP correspondent Terry Anderson, the last American hostage in the Middle East, was released Dec. 4, 1991.

Lebanese sources close to Hizbollah, a militant pro-Iranian group, told the Associated Press that Abbas Maleki, an Iranian deputy foreign minister and aide to President Hashemi Rafsanjani,

visited Beirut late last year. They said he commissioned a study by Iranian embassy officials on the likely western response if new hostages were taken. The study's conclusions are not known.

No one knows how effective the plans made at the Tehran meeting will be, although diplomats say Algerian fundamentalists have achieved a new cohesion.

To their knowledge, the information said, the Tehran meeting produced no blueprint for action against targets in the United States.

It was organised by Iran's Intelligence Ministry, National Security Council and Revolutionary Guards Intelligence Department and held on the fringes of a pan-Islamic conference attended by 400 representatives from 50 countries, they said.

Those attending included Hizbollah, (or Party of God) — the Islamic Palestinian faction Hamas; Turkish fundamentalists; North African groups, and representatives from Central Asia.

Western officials say they view the threat of renewed hostage-taking seriously, particularly since Washington seems determined to pursue those it blames for anti-U.S. operations.

Thomas E. McNamara, head of counterterrorism at the State Department declared on March 12: "The message we're putting out to the terrorists... is that you can't hide, and no matter how long it takes, we're coming after you and we're going to get you."

The FBI arrest July 15 in Lagos, Nigeria, of Omar Moham mad Ali Rezaq, a suspected member of the Abu Nidal Palestinian faction wanted in a 1985 hijacking, underscored the U.S. warnings.

On March 5, the State Depart-

ment described Iran as the "world's most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism."

Sources in Tehran told the AP the Iranian hierarchy believes the Americans are "out to get us" to avenge the seizure of U.S. hostages in Tehran in 1979 and the kidnappings and suicide bombings in Lebanon.

Much of the pressure for coordinated strategy came from the Islamic groups themselves, the sources said. But they added that ardent support was provided by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and other Iranian radicals, who are reviving the extremist policies that had ebbed after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died in June 1989.

These developments suggest that hardliners directed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, have won the upper hand from Rafsanjani, whose so-called pragmatists had sought accommodation with the West.

Mr. Rafsanjani's government played a central role in securing the release of dozens of western hostages held by pro-Iranian Shiite extremists in Lebanon.

Iran hoped freeing the captives would bring reciprocal gestures from the United States, but nothing happened and Mr. Rafsanjani's credibility apparently was undermined.

Now the Americans are pressing their allies to curb trade with Iran until it toes the line.

"Iran is fishing in troubled waters across the Arab World," Martin Indyk, a senior Clinton administration security adviser, said May 18. In the same speech, he made clear that Washington's objective is to isolate the Islamic republic because it is intrinsically "hostile to the United States."

Yeltsin predicts breakthrough, but options are limited

By Ralph Boulton
Reuter

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin and his conservative parliament face each other this autumn like two exhausted warriors, each unable to play the other and too scared to sue for peace.

The prize, Russia, flinches with every blow.

Mr. Yeltsin broke a long silence this week to predict a "super-combative" September, but left Russia guessing how he planned to break a stalemate that threatens to wreck reform in the country.

For weeks rumours had circulated that the president was ill or his political powers fading as parliament rose in rebellion with a string of motions challenging his economic plans. Deputies plan a resolution on monitoring the health of leaders.

"I've been alarmed, dissatisfied, let's say, by the president's passive approach in recent time," Mikhail Poltoranin, an aide and close confidant of Yeltsin told Reuters.

"He's in a woolly position and at such times he can lose his way...It's not physical illness," he said. "We talked to him in a serious manner and now he's back in fighting form."

Mr. Poltoranin, one of Mr. Yeltsin's most radical allies, believes the president is emerging from his summer silence with radical plans to quell parliament and push through October elections.

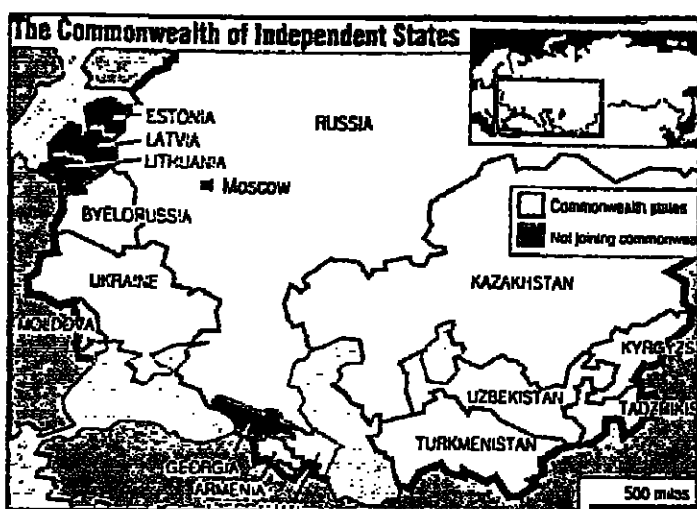
"I have always told him that bloodless politics can end in great bloodshed," Mr. Poltoranin commented, suggesting a political bloodletting could avert serious unrest in Russia.

Mr. Poltoranin argues that Mr. Yeltsin has been deceived by Russia's Security Ministry, the former KGB. He says it lied to the president about the mood in the country and discouraged him from pressing home his victory in April's nationwide confidence vote.

He welcomed the recent and still not fully explained sacking of Security Minister Viktor Barannikov.

"I think it's a sign Mr. Yeltsin is ready for a new policy," Mr. Poltoranin said. "He will either have to cross the line (of the constitution) or they (parliament) will wash away his presidential powers. It will be the one thing or the other."

Mr. Yeltsin has several times



gone to the brink of discarding the existing constitution and overriding parliament only to back down when more moderate counsels prevailed.

Mr. Poltoranin lost the battle for Mr. Yeltsin's ear after the April referendum, when he pressed for a showdown with parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin was ultimately guided by his more moderate deputy Premier Sergei Shakhrai in summoning a Constitutional Assembly.

But the assembly has laid bare dangerous conflicts among Russia's local governments over regional powersharing. Approval of a draft has been denied by key regional administrations and the legislature has made it clear it would not endorse it.

Mr. Poltoranin may err in thinking Yeltsin ready to take on parliament directly. The president may stand by moderate aides even if his instincts are for a quick, dramatic solution.

Parliament last month passed a series of motions doubling the budget deficit Mr. Yeltsin's government had planned and overruling his privatisation plans.

Mr. Yeltsin issued decrees overruling parliament and parliament replied in kind. Stalemate ensued.

Neither Mr. Yeltsin nor parliamentary chief Ruslan Khasbulatov, who argues the president's economic policies are laying waste to Russia, is able to deliver a political death blow.

The top legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, will probably shrink from impeaching Mr. Yeltsin at its routine session in November. April's referendum affords cover still.

Congress, the supreme constitutional power, does have two

powerful weapons that could undermine presidential powers.

Last December it passed a constitutional amendment by which Mr. Yeltsin's powers would automatically pass to vice-president and rival Alexander Rutskoi if he violated the constitution.

Mr. Yeltsin would be unlikely to step down in such an event.

The generals would then be left to decide in their own way whether they recognised Mr. Yeltsin or Mr. Rutskoi as their commander-in-chief — a situation fraught with danger for all sides.

Congress's second threat to Mr. Yeltsin is an attack on his control of government. The smaller sitting parliament or Supreme Soviet is expected to debate a proposal that the legislature has the right to appoint or sack any minister.

Endorsement of such a measure by congress could force Mr. Yeltsin to step down or risk abandoning the constitution.

All parties in Russia's power struggle agree on a need for parliamentary elections to break the deadlock. Here again, it is the legislature that ultimately sets the terms.

Mr. Poltoranin proposes a decree from Mr. Yeltsin setting polls for the month he has chosen — October. But by any strict interpretation of the constitution, which does not allow for dissolution of parliament, this would be unconstitutional.

Parliament may want to delay until early next year when uncertainty and hardship may have eroded Mr. Yeltsin's popularity. "If elections don't take place in the autumn, the situation may go beyond our control," moderate Yeltsin aide Vyacheslav Volkov commented.

Nuclear power will test Japanese coalition's unity

By Yuki Aso
Reuter

TOKYO — The unity of Japan's new coalition government will be put to an important test when the country's nuclear energy and plutonium-recycling programmes are discussed, analysts said.

Internal discord appears unavoidable, as conservatives in the coalition want to maintain current nuclear policies while the socialists are keen to review them, they said.

"They know what they are up against, and now they have to sweep aside differences...but it may be difficult," said Hiroki Kudo, a senior economist at Japan's Institute of Energy Economics.

"We must think realistically about nuclear power — realistically about securing diverse energy sources but also about nuclear safety," Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has said.

Mr. Hosokawa, whose election last week ended 38 years of rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), heads a coalition that embraces LDP splinter groups as well as the socialists and a union-backed group.

But except for political reform, coalition members seem able to agree only on the broad outlines of economic and foreign policies that even hardliners of the LDP could endorse, analysts said.

"Taking the issue of nuclear power alone, I can hardly believe this kind of government can last for long," said an analyst at Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.

Although the Socialists had dropped their more extreme left positions, a strong element in the party still wanted to abolish nuclear plants, political analysts said.

"No one in our party is so unrealistic as to call for the immediate abolition of nuclear power plants...What we want is a promise that nuclear plants will be replaced by those using much safer energy, such as solar power, over a certain period," a Socialist party official said.

Chances seemed slim that the two conservative coalition partners, the Japan Renewal Party and the Harbinger Japan New Party, would accept such demands and sacrifice their relationship with bureaucrats of the Ministry of International Trade

and Industry (MITI), who hoped to expand nuclear plants, analysts said.

MITI last year proposed raising nuclear power generation to 72 million kilowatts in 2010 from 34 million kilowatts in 1992.

MITI officials said Japan should stay with nuclear power unless it could secure substantial development funds for solar power and fuel cells.

"Conservatives not only place a great deal of faith in the nuclear power programme but must be reluctant to break the hand-in-glove relationship that MITI bureaucrats and the LDP nurtured over 38 years," the Daiwa analyst said.

MITI officials drafted practically every energy bill presented by the former LDP government, analysts said.

On Monday Mr. Hosokawa appointed former MITI bureaucrat Hiroshi Kumagai as the new trade minister.

Many socialists are eager to change this pattern of cooperation between the government and MITI and to prepare bills by themselves, party officials said.

There would also be heated debate if the socialists continued to demand an end to a project to develop commercially viable fast-breeder reactors (FBRs) on which MITI had spent billions of yen over the past decade, analysts said.

FBRs produce more plutonium than they consume, making them an attractive energy source.

Socialists oppose the projects, arguing that plutonium is too dangerous because even a small amount is enough to make nuclear weapons.

بالهاوزن

علامة للإقتناء

١٥ عاماً خبرة في تصنيع أقمشة المفروشات والستائر

backhausen
SPECIAL INTERIOR TEXTILES

عراقة - جودة - تكاميم مميزة

من النمسا

شركة السون الأزرق للإستيراد والتصدير
BLUE ARROW IMPORT & EXPORT CO.
Tel : 685341 - 685347 , Fax : 686071 Amman



Save water... every drop counts!

Drink

Coca-Cola
كوكا كولا

TRADE MARK



Always
Coca Cola!
Always the
Real Thing!

YES IT'S HERE!!! It's the great taste that everyone has been waiting for, that totally refreshing experience. It's the cool taste of the number one selling soft drink in the world - it's great tasting Coca Cola, and now it's in Jordan!

YOU MADE
ONE SMART INVESTMENT
WHEN YOU CHOSE
YOUR BMW.
NOW MAKE ANOTHER.



Outstanding technology. Precision engineering. The highest standards of excellence in comfort, performance and style. You invest in all these aspects when you buy any BMW.

Now, Ahmed Abunameh & Sons offers you another smart option: a credit plan to enable you to purchase your new BMW on a convenient instalment basis.

For further information, visit our showroom, and discover two investments whose value you'll appreciate.



THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Ahmed Abunameh & Sons Co. Abunameh Building, Third Circle, Jabal Amman, Tel: 650553, Fax: 647134.

Gold sales soar in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (R) — Shanghai has become China's largest market for gold jewellery, with 200 gold shops already in business and another 200 applying for a licence, a local newspaper reported.

Sales in the first six months of this year have hit 12 tonnes, worth about 1.4 billion yuan (\$245 million at the official exchange rate), compared with 15 tonnes for the whole of last year, the Shanghai Star newspaper reported in its weekend edition.

Panic buying over fears of rising inflation is mainly responsible

for the dramatic increase in sales. But many residents, both men and women, are draping themselves with chunky gold necklaces and flashy rings to show off their new-found wealth.

The newspaper said daily sales of gold in Shanghai were running at around seven million yuan (\$1.2 million). Half of the jewelry was made in Shanghai and most of the rest came from other parts of China.

Shanghai's gold jewellery market, revived 10 years ago, is growing at an annual rate of 15 per cent, the Star said.

Shanghai bankers were quoted as saying the city should stabilise its gold market for gold jewellery, where people, gold

openly buy and sell. Banks will now buy gold, but at unattractive prices.

The bankers said such a market would give the government greater control over money supply.

According to a study released last month by the Union Bank of Switzerland, Chinese gold imports in 1992 could have totalled 300 tonnes.

Earlier this year consultants Gold Fields Mineral Services dubbed China the world's largest consumer.

Chinese buying helped gold's recovery this year from seven-year lows of \$326 an ounce in March to a recent peak of about \$400, the highest since the 1991 Gplf war.

LONDON (R) — Pay increases in Britain's manufacturing industry fell to just 2.3 per cent in the second quarter of 1993, supporting hopes the economy might recover from recession without igniting a traditional wage-price spiral.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI), a leading employers' group, said Monday the increase — the lowest in any quarter since its records began in 1977 — compared with a first-quarter 2.5 per cent and four per cent in the April-June period of 1992.

But the British government, accused of poor economic management in recent years, is hoping the productivity gains will prove permanent and wage deals will remain subdued.

Wage rises have fallen sharply in recent years as the recession and rising unemployment put workers on the defensive, forcing many to accept pay freezes.

Since Britain has begun emerging from the longest recession since the 1930s, wage deals have remained low, reflecting a continuing lack of job security in Britain's deregulated hire-and-fire labour market and an unwillingness among many companies to pay more when demand for goods is still weak.

Low wage awards have led to productivity gains not experienced in Britain since the late 1980s.

The CBI said manufacturers are agreeing pay deals in the second quarter secured productivity gains averaging 3.8 per cent, up from 3.1 per cent in the first quarter.

"Manufacturing productivity increases continues to grow more rapidly than pay settlements. In-

British growth has traditionally floundered on rising wage pressures, a phenomenon which has plagued economic policy makers for decades and led to a stop-go economic cycle which has weakened Britain's industrial base.

But that seems to have changed, at least for now.

The Department of Employment reported last week that the annual rise in average earnings fell to just 3.50 per cent in June from 3.75 per cent in May. A year earlier the annual rise was 6.25 per cent, and awards had been above six per cent since the 1960s.

Inflation, measured by the retail price index, fell to a year-on-year 1.2 per cent in June from 1.3 per cent in May and April. Its recent peak was 10.9 per cent in October 1990.

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AFP) — China is a growing Asian and world economic power and should be involved in any major Asia-Pacific regional economic grouping, China experts have said here.

"No economic cooperation organisation in the region can leave out China," said Robert Chen, a professor of economics at the University of Hongkong and director of Asian studies.

He told an international conference here entitled "Indonesia Asia Pacific and the New World Order," that China's role in any regional economic organisation was vital.

He added that although China was a keen competitor to other Asia Pacific economies, drawing foreign investment and exporting manufactured products, there was still room for economic cooperation and industrial division of labour.

"Regionalisation of the world economy has resulted in the emergence of a trading bloc in Europe and a free trade area in America. There is therefore, a compelling necessity for Asia Pacific economies of be more dependent on intra-regional eco-

nomic activities," he argued.

"In theory, China should be involved," said Robert Scalapino, of the Berkeley-based Institute of East Asian Studies, who is attending the conference, but this was not an imperative as it also depended on the scope and geographical proximity of the groupings.

He noted that the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s joint economic efforts towards a free trade area excluded China.

Mr. Scalapino said China could become involved at a later stage once it had really emerged as a major power, economically and politically.

Drawing China into sub-regional and regional economic groupings would then allow other members to take advantage of the huge Chinese market while at the same time providing it with some of its essential needs, such as energy.

"By drawing China into regional agreements and institutional structures, any proclivities to play a dominant role or use force might be curbed," Mr. Scalapino added.

NAIROBI (R) — African coffee producers, alarmed at depressed world prices, meet in Uganda Monday to examine proposals for withholding some of their production from the market.

Coffee marketing officials said Sunday the three-day meeting of the Inter-African Organisation (IAOC) in Kampala would compare its position with that of producers from Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and Central America.

In June, African producers meeting in Abidjan put together a detailed scheme to retain 15 per cent of their exports. Brazil, Colombia and five Central American countries agreed on July 4 to withhold 20 per cent of exports.

"There are a lot of similarities between our proposals and those of our friends from Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and Central America," one IACO official told Reuters. "It's a question of harmonising the two positions."

Another official added: "The retention scheme can only work if we producers formulate a united front. This is what we hope to achieve in Kampala."

Coffee prices have improved on the world market since the Latin American plan to withhold

supplies was announced last month.

The aggressive plan is aimed at forcing up prices which slumped by 50 per cent when an International Coffee Organisation (ICO) price-support accord collapsed in 1989.

Producer nations say they have lost \$10 billion in export revenue since then.

By restricting supply to the market, the producers want to force consumer nations to use up the stocks which have been depressing the market. Coffee stocks doubled to 18-20 million 60-kilogramme bags over the last four years.

"A retention scheme is the only way of stabilising prices," Uganda's Marketing Minister Richard Kajjuka said.

Mr. Kajjuka spoke after welcoming delegates from other producing nations who arrived in the East African country at the weekend to take part in the meeting.

African nations have lost up to \$1 billion since the 1989 collapse of the export quota system, hurting their ability to service their staggering foreign debts and jolted economic recovery plans.

that
you
will
discover

BY

wearing
our
Jewellery

*** DA JEWELLERS AND**
Amra Hotel - Amman.

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

HARRIS

© 1994 Gribble Syndicates, Inc.

"My diet doctor says I can't have ice cream for dessert anymore...so I'm having it for an appetizer!"

TEMPLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

[illegible]

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS
 Charly
 TV lara
 Ancient Asian
 Harvest
 Way
 Time gone by
 Directly
 confronting
 Prepare copy
 Feast
 Red mineral
 Punch
 Prudence
 Frank
 Drunkard
 Furious
 Dummy
 Moderately
 Kitchen utensil
 Outer, pref.
 Burt or Rango
 Native of, suff
 Dancing
 position?
 Birthplace of St
 Paul
 Small cut
 Ceremonial
 Chair
 Defeat easily
 Consecutive
 As well
 — di
 — term
 fountain or
 Rose
 off (making
 to)
 Desires
 DOWN
 19 19's calls
 20 computer
 21 instruction
 22 like same
 23 horse
 24 thrust
 25 tense robe
 26 aware, fr. short
 27 be — (agree)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48
 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56
 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64
 65 66 67 68 69

• 1951 "The Monday Star" 4th, 1971
 4th issue

11 New Jersey
 town
 12 Seed
 appendage
 13 Apportion
 18 — on the chin
 22 Pheaf
 23 19's title
 25 Sluggish Met
 26 Course abbr
 28 Pertaining to
 suff
 29 Super
 30 Some breads
 31 Sped
 32 Buy on —
 (trading term)
 33 Theater section
 abbr
 34 Head of France
 38 Like boxers at
 times
 39 Like net — word
 40 Magician's —
 42 Distress call
 43 Ft Worth school
 letters
 44 Sounds of
 delight
 47 Slate abbr
 48 Threelot
 49 Like some
 "weeds"
 52 Vacuous
 53 Pie nut
 54 Corner
 55 Flow
 56 Corrode
 57 Party for men
 58 Sialom runners
 61 Marine bird
 62 201

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SWAP PPOF ALMO
 ERGO SIDDLE VEAR
 TERESALADEGGOOS
 ANIMATOR RAINES
 WIFEDS JELLET
 ACTOR SODEL
 DEMGODWHISTLES
 ERAS RING RANGER
 ROSS FANTO
 BESTOWS DOG
 ADDORS PURITANS
 SUPPERMAGWHEEL
 JECROFORMYACME
 NEON ROSS WHOP

Indian premier warns Pakistan to stop meddling in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, India (Agencies) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Sunday vowed India would not loosen its hold on the disputed region of Kashmir, despite what he said was Pakistan's increasing aid to Muslim separatists there.

"Let Pakistan do anything. Kashmir is a part of India. Nothing can take it away from us," Mr. Rao said in a speech to the nation on the 46th anniversary of its independence.

In a departure from the past, when Indian prime ministers in public speeches used to accuse Pakistan only indirectly, Mr. Rao openly criticised Islamabad for fuelling the three-year-old insurgency in Jammu-Kashmir state.

In Kashmir Valley, the centre of the insurgency, rebels called for a boycott of Independence Day celebrations like they have done during the past several years.

While government-sponsored functions were being held Sunday under heavy guard in Srinagar, Jammu-Kashmir's winter capital, militants attacked a paramilitary patrol party, near the airport, killing one policeman and injuring eight others.

In the plains of Jammu, to the south of Kashmir, suspected Muslim rebels exploded two bombs in Jammu City, the state's

winter capital, but there were no injuries, police spokesman D.K. Tikoo said.

On Saturday, rebels had hijacked a bus at gunpoint, separated the Hindus among the passengers and killed 15 of them in Kishtwar town of Jammu region.

About a dozen armed militias are fighting for the independence of Jammu-Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. Some groups want the state to join Islamic Pakistan.

Islamabad denies India's accusations that it is training and arming Kashmiri rebels in Pakistani territory and sending them back to Kashmir across the mountainous border to fight Indian security forces.

More than 7,500 people have been killed in Kashmir since the insurgency flared up in the winter of 1989.

Mr. Rao said he hoped that new elections in Pakistan, scheduled later this year, would bring to power a leadership that will solve the Kashmir dispute without bloodshed.

"We can become friends and our friendship can be an example to the world. But I want to warn Pakistan that (aiding in violence) is not going to help anyone, least of all them," Mr. Rao said in his 70-minute speech.

Kashmir, made up of a wide valley and lush mountains, was a princely state that was split between India and Pakistan when the two countries were born in the partition of British colonial India in August 1947. But Pakistan also claims the Indian-controlled Kashmir.

India celebrates its independence on Aug. 15 while Pakistan does so a day earlier. The two nations fought short wars in 1948 and 1965 over the territory, home to 6 million people, 65 per cent of which are Muslims.

Mr. Rao sounded the battlecry against Hindu fundamentalists Sunday, calling for a united fight to save India's secular values.

Mr. Rao said India's secular credentials and its tradition of religious tolerance had been blotted and its unity endangered by the Dec. 6 destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots.

"It shamed us in the eyes of the world," the Indian premier said in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort after inspecting a guard of honour and unfurling the Indian tricolour.

"We looked like destroyers to the world," he said.

"We have to fight fundamentalism, every child has to fight it. If it is not fought, it will ruin the country, break it up. No political party has a right to divide the nation along religious lines to grab votes."

"Secularism has been our life-breath, without it we will die. I urge the hundreds of millions of Indians to unite to save it," Mr. Rao added, pledging his commitment to legislation separating politics and religion.

Hundreds of police and paramilitary troops clamped a security cordon in and around the Moghul-built Red Fort as Mr. Rao started the day by paying homage to a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, who led the fight for freedom from British rule.

The fort was scanned by bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs and visitors were frisked.

In Mr. Rao's third Independence Day address to the nation, he again promised to rebuild the Ayodhya Mosque and protect minority interests.

The speech appeared directed also at his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

valley and lush mountains, was a princely state that was split between India and Pakistan when the two countries were born in the partition of British colonial India in August 1947. But Pakistan also claims the Indian-controlled Kashmir.

India celebrates its independence on Aug. 15 while Pakistan does so a day earlier. The two nations fought short wars in 1948 and 1965 over the territory, home to 6 million people, 65 per cent of which are Muslims.

Mr. Rao sounded the battlecry against Hindu fundamentalists Sunday, calling for a united fight to save India's secular values.

Mr. Rao said India's secular credentials and its tradition of religious tolerance had been blotted and its unity endangered by the Dec. 6 destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots.

"It shamed us in the eyes of the world," the Indian premier said in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort after inspecting a guard of honour and unfurling the Indian tricolour.

"We looked like destroyers to the world," he said.

"We have to fight fundamentalism, every child has to fight it. If it is not fought, it will ruin the country, break it up. No political party has a right to divide the nation along religious lines to grab votes."

"Secularism has been our life-breath, without it we will die. I urge the hundreds of millions of Indians to unite to save it," Mr. Rao added, pledging his commitment to legislation separating politics and religion.

Hundreds of police and paramilitary troops clamped a security cordon in and around the Moghul-built Red Fort as Mr. Rao started the day by paying homage to a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, who led the fight for freedom from British rule.

The fort was scanned by bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs and visitors were frisked.

In Mr. Rao's third Independence Day address to the nation, he again promised to rebuild the Ayodhya Mosque and protect minority interests.

The speech appeared directed also at his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

valley and lush mountains, was a princely state that was split between India and Pakistan when the two countries were born in the partition of British colonial India in August 1947. But Pakistan also claims the Indian-controlled Kashmir.

India celebrates its independence on Aug. 15 while Pakistan does so a day earlier. The two nations fought short wars in 1948 and 1965 over the territory, home to 6 million people, 65 per cent of which are Muslims.

Mr. Rao sounded the battlecry against Hindu fundamentalists Sunday, calling for a united fight to save India's secular values.

Mr. Rao said India's secular credentials and its tradition of religious tolerance had been blotted and its unity endangered by the Dec. 6 destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots.

"It shamed us in the eyes of the world," the Indian premier said in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort after inspecting a guard of honour and unfurling the Indian tricolour.

"We looked like destroyers to the world," he said.

"We have to fight fundamentalism, every child has to fight it. If it is not fought, it will ruin the country, break it up. No political party has a right to divide the nation along religious lines to grab votes."

"Secularism has been our life-breath, without it we will die. I urge the hundreds of millions of Indians to unite to save it," Mr. Rao added, pledging his commitment to legislation separating politics and religion.

Hundreds of police and paramilitary troops clamped a security cordon in and around the Moghul-built Red Fort as Mr. Rao started the day by paying homage to a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, who led the fight for freedom from British rule.

The fort was scanned by bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs and visitors were frisked.

In Mr. Rao's third Independence Day address to the nation, he again promised to rebuild the Ayodhya Mosque and protect minority interests.

The speech appeared directed also at his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.

At his critic, including dissidents within the Congress (I) Party, who have accused Mr. Rao of being indecisive and lacking the will or the dynamism for a head-on fight with the BJP.

The prime minister, who came to power in June 1991, said divisive issues such as religion endangered economic progress and sidetracked attention from reforms aimed at transforming India's hidebound economy.



Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reviews an honour guard during a ceremony marking India's Independence Day (AFP photo)

Lucky few leave Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — A lucky few escaped Sarajevo Sunday in the first major medical evacuation of its 16-month siege, but they left behind hundreds of other casualties and a bitter international row over who deserves to be rescued.

Sunday's controversial airlift began with the evacuation of 21 sick and wounded adults and children — eight of them on stretchers — by a British military transport plane for London and Stockholm via Ancona, on the east coast of Italy.

U.N. Doctor Patrick Peilod scathingly dismissed the operation as a stunt parading children like "animals in a zoo." At least 400 similarly deserving cases remain in Sarajevo.

"It is a show," he told reporters. "And I don't like it."

As the Royal Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft lumbered into the sky from U.N.-controlled Sarajevo Airport, fighting raged on unabated across central Bosnia, creating more victims in a war that has already cost or ruined many thousands of lives.

Despite the fighting and row over the evacuation, the Geneva peace talks, scheduled to resume Monday, received an apparent boost when Bosnian Serbs withdrew from mountains near Sarajevo and Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said he favoured an ethnic partition of Bosnia to achieve peace.

Mr. Izetbegovic, who was speaking in a radio interview, has

hitherto favoured a multi-ethnic Bosnia for the country's Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

A U.N. military spokesman said following Saturday's negotiated withdrawal by Bosnian Serb forces from Mount Igman, only about 200 stragglers remained. They were coming out of the woods and waiting for transport.

But Serbs still hold the semi-circle of heights from which they have battered Sarajevo since the war began in April, 1992. They can resume shelling at any time if peace talks falter.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic declared Sunday that Sarajevo was "no longer under siege" and peace talks could resume in Geneva with realistic hope of a settlement.

"Shells are not falling on Sarajevo and convoys with humanitarian aid are entering the city unhindered. With this practically all civilian questions linked with Sarajevo are resolved, which means that civilian Sarajevo is no longer under siege," he told the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA).

Mr. Karadzic, speaking to SRNA from Geneva, said a withdrawal by the Serb army from Mount Igman and Bjelasica and deployment of U.N. troops between Serb and Muslim lines meant the peace talks could restart.

"We await the continuation of the talks with great optimism," he said, adding that the U.N.'s

mission henceforth would be to keep the two sides separated.

The fighting has caused thousands of civilian casualties. Yet only now are a few being airlifted for treatment abroad after Western governments responded to media accounts, initially about five-year-old Ima Hadzimiratovic, evacuated to London last week and still seriously ill in a hospital there.

The sniping about "Operation Ima" and the criteria for choosing those to be flown out did not die down Sunday.

Dr. Peilod, head of the U.N. Medical Evacuation Committee, said the mission had been effectively hijacked by a British medical team as a public relations exercise, a sop to anguished Western public opinion.

"Children are not animals in a zoo," Dr. Peilod said.

But Mukesh Kapila, a senior British health adviser, denied charges that cynical and popularity-seeking governments had sent doctors to Sarajevo with orders to rescue dying children whose anguish would pluck the heart strings.

"I don't think any of these injured people here are or have been treated as cattle," he said. "Of course there is an ongoing need because we're in the middle of a war and there is going to be an ongoing problem."

He said Britain and other countries were considering further assistance.

Pope is uncompromising on birth control, abortion and euthanasia

DENVER (AP) — Pope John Paul II issued an uncompromising declaration of church principles Saturday, summoning Catholics to shun artificial birth control, abortion and euthanasia and resist "widespread false morality."

The Roman Catholic Church leader also denounced the "evil" of sexual abuse by U.S. priests. He acknowledged victims' suffering while saying the primary response is prayer.

"America needs much prayer — lest it lose its soul," he said in an afternoon speech at McNichols sports arena during the third day of his four-day visit to the United States.

The Pope used some of the strongest rhetoric of his 15-year papacy on abortion and birth control.

On Saturday night, speaking to an estimated 250,000 people who

converged on a state park for a prayer vigil, the Pontiff lashed out at the "slaughter of innocent human beings," destruction of the environment, abuse of alcohol and drugs, pornography, sexual disorder and violence.

After the prayer vigil, the throng was spending the night at Cherry Creek State Park to wait for a midmorning papal mass marking World Youth Day. Up to half a million people were expected.

But as a growing number of the pilgrims suffered health problems, overwhelming emergency crews, Arapahoe County Sheriff Pat Sullivan urged people to stay away unless they were fit to walk long distances in temperatures expected to climb into the 80s.

At least 20,000 people walked a 14-mile (22-kilometre) pilgrimage from downtown Denver to the park Saturday, and twice as many joined them along the way.

One of at least two people who suffered heart attacks died, and at least 5,500 people, most suffering from dehydration, sought medical help, authorities said. About 150 people were taken to hospitals.

Earlier, at the sports arena, the Pope acknowledged that the U.S. church has been tainted by sex scandals and said he shared the concerns of U.S. bishops for the "pain and suffering" caused by some priests' sins.

His reference to victims drew loud applause from the crowd of 18,000 Denver Catholics and representatives of other churches.

The Pontiff stopped short of endorsing specific punishment for offenders, however. "While every human means for responding to this evil must be implemented, we cannot forget that the first and most important means is prayer: Ardent, humble, confident prayer," he said.

56 dead as Azeris launch fresh offensive on Karabakh

STEPANAKERT, Nagorno Karabakh (AFP) — Fifty-five Azerbaijani troops were killed in fierce clashes Sunday around Nagorno Karabakh as Azerbaijan launched a fresh three-pronged offensive, Armenian commanders said here.

Spokesmen for the general staff of the Karabakh Self-Defence Forces said Azerbaijan troops briefly seized the strategic Kyzylkaya Heights near the eastern Karabakh city of Martuni before the attack was repelled.

One Armenian fighter was killed and Armenian commanders said they left the bodies of 30 Azerbaijani fighters on the battlefield. The Armenian forces also captured an Azerbaijani tank.

At dawn Sunday, Azerbaijani forces in Fizuli south of Karabakh also attacked Armenian positions at Gadрут where heavy fighting was continuing.

According to the Armenian commanders, 25 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed with no Armenian losses. The Armenian forces were using four battle tanks and three armoured vehicles to repuff the attack.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry in Baku issued a statement accusing Armenian forces of initiating the latest fighting around Fizuli, Interfax reported.

Further west, Azerbaijani forces at

Navratilova downs Sabatini to reach Slims final

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova felt in total control Saturday when she beat Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina 6-1, 6-1 in 52 minutes in the semifinals of the \$375,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles.

Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain needed a little more time but also took complete charge against 10th-seeded American Lori McNeil, winning 7-5, 6-2 in 91 minutes in the other semifinal in the 56-player, hard court tournament which serves as a warm-up to the U.S. open.

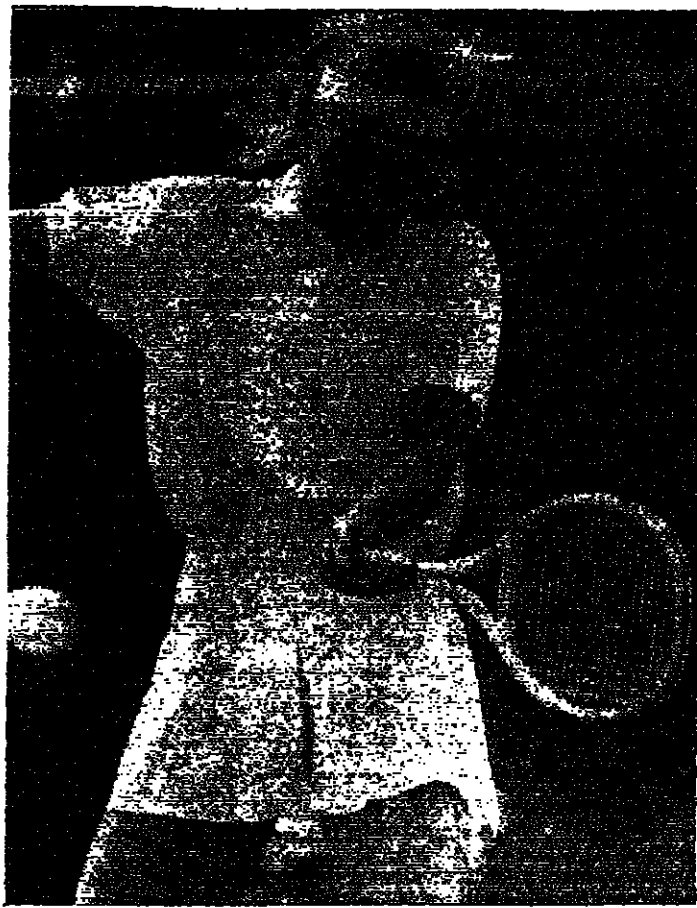
Navratilova, the second-seeded defending champion who has won the event a record seven times, played textbook serve-and-volley tennis and controlled Sabatini's service games by attacking the net on her second serves.

Navratilova, ranked fifth in the world, swept nine successive games from 1-1 in the first set until 4-0 in the second set as Sabatini tried in vain to find any sense of rhythm, unsuccessfully alternating net approaches with looping topspin shots.

Navratilova, who made an astounding 73 per cent of her first serves and won 78 per cent of those points, bluntly said that it felt good to play so well.

"It's so friggin' simply when you do it right and so bloody complicated when you do it wrong," Navratilova said.

"I felt I was at the height of my powers and it felt really good," said Sabatini. "I wasn't bad. She was too good, very good."



Martina Navratilova

Ederberg to face Chang in final

In Mason, Ohio, Stefan Ederberg tamed Pete Sampras' blistering serve Saturday night, beating the No. 1-ranked player in the world in three sets to advance to the finals of the \$1.65 million Thriftway ATP Championship.

Ederberg and Michael Chang play for the singles championship Sunday afternoon, and Ederberg also will be playing in the doubles final.

"I played very well, and Pete played well, apart from a lot of double faults," Ederberg said. "He was serving huge early but gave me more chances later in the match. I hung in there."

No. 3-seeded Ederberg, who won the tournament in 1987 and 1990, won 6-7, (7-3), 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) in a match that took 2 hours, 43 minutes.

"I had the match in hand and just let it slip away," said Sampras, the defending ATP champion. "When you live by the serve, you die by the serve."

Sampras' serve was particularly effective in the first set, when he



Michael Chang

had 13 aces, mostly in the 120-plus mph (193-kph) range. It failed him in the second set, when he double-faulted nine times. Sampras also had two double faults in the third-set tiebreaker. He called it "pretty careless tennis."

"I just kind of lost my rhythm," Sampras said. Ederberg and Henrik Holm beat third-seeded Grant Connell and Patrick Galbraith, 6-4, 6-4 and will play the winner of the other doubles semifinal scheduled for

Sunday.

It will be the first ATP final for Chang, who fought off heat-induced nausea and outlasted Andre Agassi in three sets Saturday afternoon. The 7-5, 1-6, 7-5 win by Chang, the seventh-ranked player on the ATP tour, blunted Agassi's comeback bid.

"I was pretty determined to finish that match," said Chang, who left the court during one change of serve to remove the elastic shorts he wears under his tennis shorts for muscle support.

Chang said dehydration caught up with him in the second set, when it looked like Agassi was going to win in a rout.

"Andre wasn't being too kind to me, moving me from side to side," Chang said. "He knew I was hurting out there."

But Agassi could not maintain the flash despite breaking Chang's serve to go up 3-1 in the third set. In the end, it was Chang who wore down Agassi with his dogged returns from the baseline.

Second was Ricardo Patrese of Italy in Benetton Ford, 1:11.915

World Cup qualifiers Australia defeats Canada in penalty shootout

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Third-choice goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer made two acrobatic penalty-shootout saves Sunday as Australia edged out Canada and advanced to the final round of qualifying for the World Cup soccer tournament.

Schwarzer's saves on shots by Alex Bunbury and Mike Sweeney lifted Australia to a 4-1 victory in the shootout.

Australia won the regulation match 2-1, leaving the teams tied at 3-3 in total goals. Canada won the first leg 2-1 in Edmonton July 31.

Frank Farina put Australia ahead 1-0 after 44 minutes of regulation time, but Lyndon Hooper equalized for Canada in the 55th minute.

Defender Mehmet Durakovic then put Australia 2-1 in front with a 77th-minute header, forcing the match into extra time and ultimately into the shootout, in which each team was allowed five shots on goal.

Paul Wade, Aurelio Vidmar, Alex Tobin and Farina scored penalties for Australia in the shootout. Dale Mitchell netted for Canada, but Schwarzer's two stops proved decisive.

Farina, who plays for French club Strasbourg, clinched the victory when he coolly planted Australia's fourth penalty high in the left hand corner of the net.

Schwarzer was surrounded by delighted teammates at the end of the game. First-choice goalkeeper Mark Bosnich announced his retirement from international football last month and second-choice Robert Zabica was suspended after being sent off in the first-leg match.

"It is a pretty emotional moment for us," said Australian captain Graham Arnold. "We did well."

Australia will now play the second-place team in South American Group B for a place in the 1994 finals in the United States. That group comprises Argentina, Peru, Colombia and Paraguay.

Canada, which finished second in the CONCACAF Group, was eliminated by Sunday's result.

Australia dominated the match for long periods, but was repeatedly thwarted by Canadian goalkeeper Craig Forrest and rugged central defender Randy Samuel.

Damon Hill wins Hungarian Grand Prix

MOGYOROD, Hungary (AP) — Briton Damon Hill overcame a two-race jinx Sunday to win the Hungarian Grand Prix, his first ever Formula 1 event.

The 30-year-old Hill, scion of a two-time world champion Graham Hill, capitalised on bad luck by teammate Alain Prost, who had pole position, only to apparently stall his Williams-Renault at the starting flag. After a restart, Prost, the points leader at 77 quickly moved up from last place to fifth by the 18th lap, only to be delayed by a more than five-minute pit stop. He never came back, ending in 12th place.

Hill moved into the lead after the second restart and never let go, covering the 305.336-kilometre (189.851 miles) of the 77-lap Hungarian Circuit in 1 hour 47:39.098 minutes.

Second was Ricardo Patrese of Italy in Benetton Ford, 1:11.915

minutes behind. Third was Gerhard Berger of Austria, whose Ferrari was clocked at 1:18.02 minutes behind the winner.

RESULTS

1. Damon Hill (Britain) Williams
2. Riccardo Patrese (Italy) Benetton
3. Gerhard Berger (Austria) Ferrari
4. Derek Warwick (Britain) Footwork
5. Martin Brundle (Britain) Ligier
6. Karl Wendlinger (Austria) Sauber
7. Mark Blundell (Britain) Ligier
8. Philippe Alliot (France) Larrousse
9. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) Jordan
10. Ukyo Katayama (Japan) Tyrrell

World Athletics Championships Devers feet do talking

STUTTGART (Agencies) — Olympic sprint champion Gail Devers let her feet do the talking in the women's 100m heats Sunday, as she laid the rest of the field to waste.

The American put a full seven tenths of a second between herself and the second fastest on the day, Nigeria's Mary Onyiah, who clocked a creditable 11.23sec.

But Devers refused to talk about her performance afterwards, despite the margin over the likes of compatriot Gwen Torrence, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey and Russia's Irina Privalova.

Devers never looked under pressure as she strode home with ease and is the bookmakers favourite to add the world title to her Olympic crown.

The pressure is beginning to build on Ottey, probably the best qualified runner-up in women's sprinting.

"Gail Devers is the favourite — but the 100m is wide open" she said. "There are four of us who can run under 11sec. And this is the best shape I've been in for three years."

But the Jamaican, a double bronze medalist in Tokyo two years ago, played down the prospect of defeat to Devers.

"I'm not going to hang myself or throw myself off the roof if I don't get it," she quipped.

Ottey was beaten into second place in the heat by Australian Melinda Gainsford, who was under no illusions about her victory.

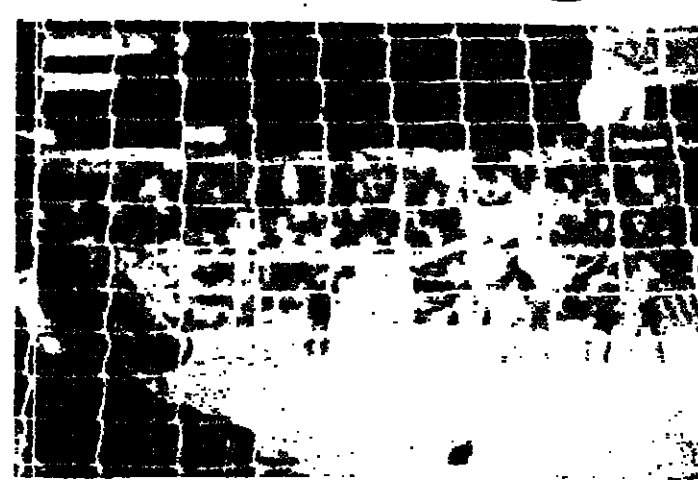
"It was just perfect today, the conditions were good and I felt good. I'm sure the other girls are looking it right now, but I needed that confidence."

Slowest on the day was Wenona Steven, a tubby-legged 14-year-old from the tiny Pacific island of Nauru. Her cousin Fredrick Canon had run barefoot against Carl Lewis in the men's 100m heats here Friday.

Wenona, who clocked 14.70, said: "I've only run the 100m five times before and I'm just very excited to be here."

Russia's Tatyana Alekseyeva was the only woman to dip under 11sec in the first round of the 400m, an event thrown wide open by France's Marie-Jose Perec, the reigning world and Olympic champion having moved down to 200m.

Torrence and Privalova, the fastest women this year over the distance have also given the event a miss in Stuttgart.



(Right to left) Sanni Herneslehti of Finland, Gwen Torrence of the U.S., Merlene Ottey of Jamaica, and Miriam Ferrer of Cuba leave the starting blocks during the women's 100 metres qualifying heats at the World Athletics Championships (AFP photo)

Alekseyeva will need to watch out though for Jamaican Sandie Richards, whose 51.01 left the third fastest, Jearl Miles of the United States, far behind in 51.24.

Richards, along with Ottey, has ambitions of pulling off a remarkable sprint double for Jamaica here.

Marathon runner back from sporting wilderness

Mark Plaatjes, for years isolated by the sporting boycott of South Africa, won the World Championship Marathon on his international debut Saturday.

Plaatjes, granted United States citizenship only nine months ago, grimly hung on as Luckett Swartbooi appeared to be running away with the race in debilitating heat and humidity.

The matchstick-thin runner from Namibia weakened in the last few kilometres and Plaatjes came storming back for an emotional win.

"I wondered if I would ever get the chance to run in a World Championships," said the 31-year-old moved to Los Angeles in 1988.

The 27-year-old Swartbooi came to prominence by finishing third in the Boston marathon in April when Plaatjes was sixth.

Andre Cason, meanwhile, threw down the gauntlet to Linford Christie and Carl Lewis when he ran the fastest 100m this year.

Cason, thrashed by Christie, the Olympic champion, and Lewis, triple world champion, at

Zurich two weeks ago, sped home in 9.96sec.

He had sworn to avenge American sprinting pride after Christie's win in the Barcelona Olympic final which he had to watch on television with his leg in plaster.

He described the dash as "relaxed."

"I was just executive the moves I was taught — I was going through the motions," he said.

As for the final, the Texan cannonball was not making any predictions.

"I'm just going out there as running my race. Tomorrow's another day."

Lewis was delighted with his 10.11 sec — sixth fastest of the qualifiers for Sunday's semifinals.

"I feel great — I'm ready to run my best tomorrow."

Christie refused to discuss his 10.00, a Personal best this year. "I am saving it all for tomorrow."

Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, silver medalist in Barcelona, was third fastest in 10.06. Bruny Surin of Canada was fourth in 10.07 and American Dennis Mitchell fifth in 10.08.

Morocco's Olympic 10,000m champion Khalid Skah, chasing a long-distance double, slipped through the first round of the 5,000m in fourth place in a heat won by Britain's Rob Denmark in 13 min 41.55 sec.

Denmark, the only non-African in the first 12 qualifiers, seemed to have blown his chances with 300m to go but he forced his way through on the finishing straight.

CAR FOR SALE

Duty Unpaid, 1984, BMW 520i, in excellent condition. For more information pls. call Tel.: 687224

FOR RENT

Two apartments, newly built, 2nd and 3rd floors, at best location in Sweilhih. Each one consists of (living, dining, family room, open balcony, modern kitchen and bathrooms, central T.V. lines, separate heating system. Address: Abdullah Ben Tanq St., Building No: 24 Owners tel: 822771-818582.

LUXURY FLAT TO LET

Located between 3rd and 4th circles near the Moroccan Embassy, fully furnished, having 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large L-shaped sitting-room, and dining room together with carpark and telephone. Enquiries at Waddan Supermarket tel: 811714. Also one room studio located between 4th & 5th circles. Enquiries at 678376.

A LARGE SEMI-VILLA FOR RENT

Furnished or without, one master bedroom, two bedrooms, a huge dining room, big salon, family room. 4 balconies, three bathrooms, a big kitchen, central heating, storage room. Location: In Fuheis-Jabal Al Rahwah on a high hill with a good view. For more information call 729516 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

TO LET

1. FURNISHED DELUXE FLAT — 3 bedrooms, one master. All services are separate. Deluxe furniture. Location: Shmeisani by Ambassador Hotel.
2. DELUXE FLAT — 3 bedrooms, one master, large areas with villa specifications. Could be furnished or unfurnished. Location: Jabal Amman by Al Khalidi Hospital. Call: Tel. 691061 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT 220m²

2 bedrooms (1 master), living-room, salon, dining room, 3 verandas, 2 bathrooms, adjacent to Philadelphia Hotel. Tel. No. 664981

VACANCY

English native teachers required for secretarial centre, varied subjects. Tel.: 680726 - Anne Francis-between: 12-6 p.m. only.

AVAILABLE TO SUIT ALL BUDGETS
VILLA FOR RENT & LOTS OF FLATS, WITH OR WITHOUT FURNITURE
Please Call: JORDAN PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
Tel: 829882/829883

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT IN ABDOUN

Independent ground floor in a villa, consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, salon, living, dining and fully equipped kitchen. Area 220 sq.m. with a big garden. Separate entrance, tel, heating electricity and water. Tel: 816841

FOR RENT

A spacious 3-bedroom apartment (first floor in a 3-storey bldg). Furnished, semi-furnished or unfurnished. Large fitted kitchen, 2 full baths, 2 verandas & telephone. Separate water, electricity and central heating. LOCATION: Behind (West of) Marriott Hotel. PLS. CONTACT: Mr. M. Jarrar, Tel. 665972

TO LET

Fully-furnished flat, 2 bedrooms, large sitting-dining area. Kitchen, bathroom & W.C., carpark, central heating and telephone. Location Shmeisani, Tyche Hotel area Tel 801795

CARS FOR SALE

1. A white Mercedes 190E 2.0, model June/1993, full options, automatic gear, covered only 6,000 km.
2. Honda Civic EX, model 1991. Duty unpaid. Pls. call 09/990246

FURNISHED ROOF FOR RENT GARDENS ST.

Tel : 673425 - 776838 Dr. Siam

TWO SHOW QUALITY DOGS FOR SALE

Female Salukis for sale with reg. numbers from the American Kennel Club and with full certification pedigree. For Info. call 840703 Zaid.

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

First floor consists of 3 bedrooms, one master, 2 bathrooms, jakuzzi, 2 living areas. Ground floor has one bathroom, big kitchen, fire place. Garden and garage, fenced all-around. Very nice area, west Amman in Rabwat Al Fardous behind the King Hussein Medical Centre towards the palaces street. Tel: 697089 (Mr. Talel)

CONCORD Tel.: 677420
Cinema
CONCORD "1"
MEMOIRS OF INVISIBLE MAN
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
2) Kim Basinger & Richard Gere
FINAL ANALYSIS
Shows: 5:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA Tel.: 699238
Cinema
Adel Imam in
Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal
play (Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
Cinema
Martin Short & Danny Glover in
Pure Luck
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571
Coming soon:
Fuad Shomaly
Abu Fayek
In the popular comedy:
Al Ilmu Nuron

Nabil & Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155
Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play:
Arab Summit Conference

Palestinian expellees accept Israeli offer of partial return

MARJ AL ZOHOUR (Agencies) — The 396 Palestinian expellees stranded in southeast Lebanon for nearly eight months announced Sunday their acceptance of Israel's latest offer to let about half of them return next month.

The return of the exiles to the occupied territories would remove what became a major stumbling block in peace talks between the Arabs and Israel, although the expulsions failed to actually derail the peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government offered Thursday to allow the return of 192 exiles to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at an unspecified date in September. The rest will be taken back in December.

"We have decided to accept the new offer and wish to stress our firm belief in the right of all of us to go back home," said the exiles' spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi.

It was the first time the exiles have accepted the principle of a piecemeal return. All earlier Israeli offers blessed by the United States were turned down.

Israeli defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami said: "We are working on the procedure right now and they will be brought back sometime in mid-September."

Under a deal brokered by the United States, 121 of the exiles could have come back by May, another group in another nine months and the remainder in December. They refused, insisting that all the Palestinians exiled last Dec. 17 must return en masse, in accordance with U.N. Resolution 799.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said 66 exiles will have served their time next month and it is trying to organise with the Israeli authorities the repatriation of the 121 and the 66.

ICRC deputy head of delegation Claude Bruderlein added: "There are 25 cases of sickness and we are working to have them brought back." But he did not know how many were among the 187.

Dr. Rantisi listed several reasons for the exiles' change of mind:

— The resumption of the peace

talks despite the expulsion;

— The rise of the sickness rate to more than 100 among the exiles;

— The "news blackout" clamped by the United States to obscure our cause;

— Failure of the U.N. Security Council to implement its Resolution 799, which called Dec. 18 for the immediate and unconditional repatriation of with all the exiles;

— Please the exiles received from their families to accept the offer.

Dr. Rantisi said the decision was taken after extensive consultations with all the exiles.

Most of the men appeared happy as Dr. Rantisi made the announcement. But some were worried about the return journey.

"I'm uncertain about the welcome we will get," said Anwar Mahmoud, 30, a municipality worker in occupied Jerusalem.

"Is it prison for us or home?" Families of some of the exiles rejoiced. Dr. Rantisi's brother, Mohammad, said: "We bless this step, we bless their agreement. We hope all would return. The happiness is in the heart."

TEARFUL FAREWELL: Two children and their mother cry as they say good-bye to remaining family members before their transport Sunday to Sarajevo's Kosovo Hospital to be evacuated to England for needed medical treatment. Some 40 people including 11 children were evacuated from the besieged Bosnian capital to Britain and Sweden for medical treatment (see page 8)

'U.S. spies misread Iraqi bomb plans'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. intelligence missed most of Iraq's nuclear bomb-building efforts before the Gulf war because its heaviest efforts were directed towards Vietnam-era missing in action (MIA) cases, a congressional report says.

The report, issued Sunday by the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, found 20 times more Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) personnel assigned to MIA cases than intelligence on Iraq.

The United States, the report said, had been "totally unaware of more than 50 per cent" of what has since been identified as suspected nuclear weapons-related sites in Iraq.

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Commander Keith Arterburn, had no comment on the report.

The report said that in July 1990, a month before Iraq invaded Kuwait, DIA, the Pentagon's intelligence arm, had 42 people in its Washington headquarters assigned exclusively to the politically sensitive MIA and prisoner of war (PoW) issue.

By contrast, only two were assigned to Iraq, despite a high priority, even then, on monitoring the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological capabilities worldwide.

"What is clear is that inadequate resources were applied to gathering data on the Iraqi nuclear effort," said the oversight and investigations subcommittee report, a supplement to a survey issued in April 1992 on lessons of the Gulf war.

Another reason the spy apparatus missed so much of the Iraqi nuclear programme was the lack of input from potential Iraqi turncoats, the report said.

The committee found U.S. forces greatly overstated — something more than doubling —

the number of Iraqi tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery pieces destroyed during the air phase of the Gulf war.

The exaggerated count was given to army General Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. commander in the Region, as he assessed the damage to the Iraqi military before deciding when to launch the allied ground offensive.

"This was the greatest challenge and the greatest failure of the intelligence community in Operation Desert Storm," the U.S.-led multinational effort that drove Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991, the report said.

Committee Chairman Norman Sisisky, a Democratic congressman from Virginia, said U.S. intelligence agencies repeatedly altered their methodology during the six-week air war to improve their readouts of enemy equipment damage.

"There's no book on how to handle battlefield damage assessments. We need to write one now," he said in a statement.

Despite finding fault with the count, the report said, the ground attack cut through the Iraqi army effortlessly. It added that the U.S. Central Command's threshold of destruction for launching the ground attack was "probably higher than needed."

Other findings:

— The armed services were so pressed for communications lines to Saudi Arabia that serious consideration was given to leasing Soviet satellite time.

— Turn-of-the-century archaeologists' texts helped avoid soft sand that could have slowed Gen. Schwarzkopf's "left hook" flanking manoeuvre in the Iraqi desert.

— U.S. forces collected good tactical intelligence but often failed to deliver it to the fighting units that needed it.

Prosecutors push to appeal acquittal in Mahjoub trial

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian prosecutors Sunday moved forward with plans to call for a retrial of 27 Islamic militants acquitted of the 1990 assassination of Parliamentary Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub.

They announced their plans to appeal Saturday's verdict by the high state security court, which acquitted all of the defendants of the Oct. 12, 1990 assassination after throwing out evidence obtained through torture.

But the civilian court sentenced 10 of the defendants to jail terms ranging from three years to 15 years for carrying weapons and forged papers.

The prosecutor's office will call for the verdict to be annulled and for the defendants to be sent before another body if it is found that the decision contained legal errors," the official told the Middle East News Agency (MENA).

Prosecutors will issue their appeal to the military governor, a title held by President Hosni Mubarak, who last year ordered trials of Islamic militants moved to military courts.

Military courts move more quickly and issues harsher sentences than civilian tribunals.

While Mr. Mubarak's spokesman could not be reached for comment, lawyers said here Sunday that they expected the president to call for a retrial.

"President Mubarak will refuse, under the authority given to him by emergency laws, to ratify the verdict and accept (an expected appeal) from the prosecutors," according to a lawyer who requested anonymity.

Lawyers noted that Mr. Mubarak this year ordered the

reopening of the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the exiled spiritual leader of many Islamic militants here, and 47 of his followers who were acquitted in 1990.

They were accused of participating in a violent protest in the oasis city of Fayoum, 100 kilometres south of Cairo.

The lawyer defending the 27 militants, Nabil Al Hilali, said after Saturday's verdict that justice had been done but said he feared "the president of the republic will never ratify these sentences. They are too lenient."

The court on Saturday sentenced Mohammad Al Naggar to 15 years in prison on the lesser charges after it threw out his confession to the assassination of Mr. Mahjoub, saying it was extracted under torture.

The presiding judge, Wahid Mahmud, said that "Naggar was kept alive only to serve the needs of the police."

He also said "not one detainee had escaped torture."

He added that Egyptian justice could not accept confessions based on torture, which he said "was proof of the failure and impotence of the police to discover the truth."

The court also said the main witnesses had not recognised any of the defendants.

Meanwhile, 53 Islamic militants accused of trying to overthrow Mr. Mubarak's secular government were to go on trial in a military court here later Sunday. It had originally been scheduled to begin last Monday.

Seven of the 53 are at large and are to be tried in absentia.

Iraq frees stranded vessels

DUBAI (R) — Iraq is releasing merchant ships stranded for more than a decade in the Iraqi port of Basra by two regional wars, shipping sources in the Gulf said on Saturday.

They said the ships, some of which had been in Basra since before the outbreak of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, were towed into the Gulf through Shatt Al Arab, the waterway jointly controlled between Baghdad and Tehran.

"The Iraqis told the owners a few months ago they could collect the vessels from Basra," one shipping source said.

Iraq, currently negotiating with the U.N. for a limited resumption of oil exports, used to ship oil from terminals in Basra.

But an oil industry source said he thought the clearing of Basra port was not related to oil sales.

"They have the capacity to export 500,000 barrels per day from Mina Al Bakr terminal on the Gulf," he said, adding the capacity could be tripled if necessary by the end of the year.

Iraqi officials said in March they had started a three-year programme to dredge Shatt Al Arab, the only access for ships to Basra port.

The shipping sources said that on July 16, shipping firms in the Gulf received a memo from the U.S. naval forces Central Command advising them to coordinate with the maritime liaison office to ensure the cleared vessels were not violating a U.N. trade embargo on Iraq.

"Coalition naval forces operating in the Northern Arabian Gulf on behalf of the United Nations are required to ensure that vessels arriving and departing Iraqi waters are not violating United Nations resolutions," the memo, obtained by Reuters, said.

"To expedite this process, companies intending to transit to or from Iraqi waters are requested to notify the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command as soon as possible," it added.

U.S. Navy spokesman Bruce Cole said the USS Rigate Gallery checked the Greek-flagged merchant vessel Loyalty on Saturday as it was being towed from Basra to the United Arab Emirates.

He said it was the fifth vessel from Basra inspected in three weeks by the U.S. naval forces monitoring the U.N. embargo, imposed on Iraq at the end of the Gulf crisis over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The first vessel, horizon, whose flag is unknown, was inspected on July 24, spokesman Cole said.

Since then U.S. naval forces have checked the Silver Crane and Evia whose flags are unknown and the Thaliassini Mana flying a Panamanian flag.

"They all have a significant amount of corrosion. They have not had any maintenance.... but there was no indication that they had been hit, or war-damaged," he told Reuters.

None of them was carrying cargo from Iraq, he said.

He said a few ships left Basra earlier this year, but that it seemed the rate was increasing.

"We're expecting to see more of them," he said.

The desire for undisputed control of the Shatt Al Arab, jointly controlled with Iran under a 1975 agreement, was a main reason for the war between Iraq and Iran.

A decade later, after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait, Iraq said it was prepared to accept joint sovereignty.

The shipping sources said they thought there could be up to one hundred ships still stranded in Shatt Al-Arab, mostly in very poor condition.

Jordanian, Japanese officials discuss peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Sunday received director of the First Middle East Division at the Japanese Foreign Ministry Akio Tanaka, who arrived in Amman Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Hassan and Mr. Tanaka discussed Jordan's stand on the Middle East peace process and the Arab-Israeli multilateral talks.

Mr. Hassan stressed Jordan's commitment to the peace process on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of exchanging land for peace and ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

The multilateral talks, Mr. Hassan said, are complementary to the efforts exerted to achieve peace in the region.

He also commended Japan's support for Jordan in various fields of development and lauded Japan's support for the peace process.

Mr. Tanaka expressed his government's appreciation for the effective and positive role Jordan is playing in the peace process and voiced admiration of His Majesty King Hussein's role and endeavours to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Hassan and the Japanese official discussed Jordanian-Japanese relations and means of enhancing them in various fields of cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuki Ikeda and several officials.

Mr. Tanaka was also received by Ministry of Tourism Secretary-General Nasri Atallah.

Mr. Atallah and Mr. Tanaka discussed bilateral relations in touristic fields.

Little reaction from rights activists to 4 executions in Jordan

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The hanging this week of four Jordanians convicted of spying, murder and rape charges has drawn little reaction from human rights activists in the country.

According to reports published in the local press Sunday, two of the convicted were found guilty of spying. The other two, both Zarka residents, had a history of family disputes prior to the murders they were accused of.

The non-governmental Arab Organisation for Human Rights-Jordan Branch (AOHR) declined comment on the executions. AOHR secretary Hani Dahleh said the organisation "does not interfere in Jordanian court verdicts concerning death penalties."

A member of Amnesty International (AI) in Jordan, Nidal Mansour, said that in all cases regarding human rights violations and death penalties, the London-based international watchdog sends appeals to the concerned governments to halt death penalties on the basis that "executions are inhuman and might include innocent people." But, according to Mr. Mansour, no such statement was issued until now concerning the latest executions in Jordan.

The AI reaction to the hangings "will surely appear in a statement in a few days or in the organisation's annual report," he said.

According to international law, death penalty is not banned but confined to "very serious crimes." Human rights activist Walid Sa'di pointed out that although the international code of human rights does not ban executions, it encourages governments not to resort to death penalty as a general policy. However, "all attempts exerted at the Vienna conference (held last June) to make countries sign a statement in which they commit themselves to abolish death penalty failed," Dr. Sa'di said.

Protesting against what he termed as a violation of one of the basic rights of human beings — the right to live — human rights activist Suleiman Sweiss said that convicted could be rehabilitated.

"How come we stand against suicide and do nothing about murders, though both mean putting an end to human life by a human being?" Dr. Sweiss asked.

At least three other people have been hanged this year in the Kingdom.

In general, death by hanging is used primarily against those convicted of crimes such as rape and murder.

Under the Constitution, His Majesty King Hussein has to ratify death sentences before they could be carried out.

The latest hangings took place Saturday before dawn at Swaqa prison, 100 kilometres south of Amman.

The names of the four were not available. The newspapers provided only first names.

The reports said a man, identified as Ahmad, 28, was hanged after he was found guilty of raping his 80-year-old mother. Killing her and stealing her money.

A man identified as Khaldoun, 22, was hanged for knifing his father, step-mother and half-brother to death.

All the crimes took place in Zarka, the reports said, without giving details of the courts that tried the cases or saying when the sentences were handed down.

The papers said Fathi, 48, and Mohammad, 50, were hanged because "they were spying for the enemy and divulged secrets and information to it."

Reports said a fifth man, identified as Mohammad, also convicted of the same charges, had been sentenced to death in absentia.

Israel Sunday denied any knowledge of the two men executed by Jordan on charges of spying.

An Israeli spokeswoman told Reuters: "We just don't know anything about it."

2 teenagers held in James Jordan's murder

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina (Agencies) — Two teenagers have been arrested in the murder of basketball superstar Michael Jordan's father, state and federal authorities said Sunday.

The two young men, both 18 and both from North Carolina, were identified as Larry Demery of Rowland and Daniel Andre Green of Robson Country.

Both were charged with armed robbery, first degree murder and conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

"This is an act of random violence that all the public is afraid and concerned of," said Jim Coman of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation into the July 23 murder of James Jordan.

Mr. Jordan, 57, was last seen on July 22 after attending a funeral of a former co-worker at General Electric, Willie Kemp, in Wilmington, North Carolina.

His body was found on Aug. 3 floating in a South Carolina

creek, with a gunshot wound to the chest.

Gary Odel Farrior, 16, of Fayetteville, was arrested on Saturday for an alleged role in stripping Mr. Jordan's \$46,000 Lexus. Police said Farrior was in possession of property from the car when arrested.

Mr. Jordan was shot to death when he apparently pulled off the road for a rest near Lumberton in southeastern North Carolina where the suspects were planning to rob someone, said Cumberland County Sheriff Art Binder.

The alleged killers knew their victim was Michael Jordan's father and took his body to South Carolina and dumped it in a river, then took the car back into North Carolina and abandoned it to cover their tracks, Captain Binder said.

Mr. Jordan's family had not notified police that he was missing because Mr. Jordan often travels on business and his family

did not become concerned until the car was found.

Authorities, who determined the unidentified corpse found in the creek died from a single gunshot wound to the chest, cremated the body after removing the jaw and fingers.

The discovery of Mr. Jordan's abandoned luxury car on Aug. 5 led police to suspect the cremated body was that of Mr. Jordan and he was identified with dental records.

Late Friday police arrested 20-year-old Gary Farrior on charges that he helped strip Mr. Jordan's \$46,000 Lexus.

Four people arrested earlier for vandalising the car were not connected with the murder, a police spokesman said Sunday.

On Saturday police arrested Terrell Marnicus Teasley, 22, Kenneth Connor and Jovan Jamahal Carter, 18, for vandalising the car. Farrior's younger brother, Gary Rodel Farrior, was

U.N. envoy says aid will stabilise S. Lebanon

MSEILEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — International aid for civilians hit by Israel's assault on southern Lebanon will help bring stability to the region, a U.N. envoy said Sunday.

Jan Eliasson, U.N. emergency relief coordinator, said he saw no possibility the international community would ignore a U.N. appeal for aid for the south to be made at the end of the week.

"I am hopeful they realise giving this assistance is not only a question of compassion for human beings struck by disaster but it is also a contribution to stability in Lebanon and stability in this region," Mr. Eliasson said.

He was speaking after talks with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who heads the moderate and secular Amal movement, Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) are the two main organisations in Lebanon's Shiite Muslim community.

Mr. Eliasson, who arrived in Beirut Saturday, left Mr. Berri's home in Mseileh village for a tour of areas further south battered by Israel's seven-day air and ground bombardment last month.

About 150 people were killed, more than 600 wounded and about 500,000 a were driven from their homes in the blitz which was halted on July 31 by a U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

The Lebanese government says about 10,000 houses were destroyed and 20,000 were badly damaged.

Speaking on Saturday after talks with President Elias Hrawi, Mr. Eliasson said the U.N. had reported more than 1,000 houses were destroyed, 1,500 were partially destroyed and 15,000 were badly damaged.

Arab League Secretary-General Esam Abdul Meguid visited Beirut on Saturday to discuss some \$500 million in aid for the south pledged by Arab states during the Israeli offensive.

Calling the situation in the region very "tragic," Mr. Eliasson said after a meeting with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri that he hoped to collect \$15 million "in the very near future."

Mr. Eliasson said he was confident that member states and U.N. special organisations would contribute to the fund "because the return of the inhabitants of South Lebanon is necessary for stability in the region."

"We agreed with the Lebanese prime minister that a housing assistance programme was necessary to counter the tragedy and that a large part of it had to be carried out before the onset of winter," he said.

He also said that the recent deployment of the Lebanese army around Hizbollah strongholds in the south previously patrolled only by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) contributed "an element of stability."

Budget lines

(Continued from page 1)

— Operational expenses of each department should be estimated on actual needs.

— Capital expenses should be restricted under productive, small-medium-size, production projects entailing the employment of workers.

Each department must make accurate estimates and take care to include only those schemes within their financial and technical capabilities.

— Government departments must put forward proposals aimed at improving their revenues and dealing with deficits in their own budgets.

Normally these budgets are first submitted to the Budget Department for review, then to the Council of Ministers and later to Parliament for approval.

COLUMN

Diana wants speedy divorce, paper reports

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana wants a divorce from Prince Charles "within months," not after the expected two years of formal separation, a Sunday newspaper reported. The Mail On Sunday, quoting unnamed "close friends" of the Princess of Wales, reported on its front page that Princess Diana hopes to secure a divorce through a clause in 1973 matrimonial law, which holds that couples have proper grounds for divorce if they have lived apart for at least five years. Buckingham Palace Princess Diana's formal separation from the heir to the throne last December after 11 years of marriage. At the time it was asserted that a full divorce wasn't on the cards until December 1994, if ever. Nigel Dempster, the Mail newspaper's royal reporter, wrote that an earlier divorce would be based on "Diana's claim that she and Charles have in effect not been man and wife" since February 1987. In that month, Mr. Dempster reported, the couple made an official four-day visit to Portugal but slept in separate bedrooms at the royal palace of Queluz outside Lisbon. A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman declined to comment on the report.

Mandela plants a tree for peace

ALEXANDRIA, South Africa (AFP) — Black leader Nelson Mandela chose a bleak, rubbish-strewn, dusty and colourless street in this black ghetto to make his contribution to national Arbor Day. Watched by several hundred residents, three peace monitors and a lone cow, Mr. Mandela heaped a spadeful of sods onto a "grewia occidentalis," a leafy tree that he said he hoped would combat pollution, halt soil erosion and bring touches of beauty into the township. Another 1,000 trees, donated by environmental groups for Africa, are also to be planted in Alexandria — regarded by some as South Africa's most poverty-ridden and crime-filled black township. Speaking at a gathering before the ceremony, Mr. Mandela accused the white minority National Party (NP) government of having "devastated" South Africa's environment. "Apartheid has polluted the air and water, pillaged the bedrock and torn the earth away like flesh. In much of the country, the soil cannot keep the people any more," Mr. Mandela said, quoting from a Worldwatch Institute report. He said the principle of sustainable development — meeting today's needs without preventing the next generation from meeting their needs tomorrow — had never featured in the NP's environmental policy.

Father arrested after son, 3, gets tipsy

WEST CHESTER, Pennsylvania (AFP) — A three-year-old child got drunk during a visit with his father here, police said. The tipsy toddler said "cheers daddy" and seemed to make a toast when questioned by police, after being returned to his mother in a belligerent state, unable to stand. The father has been arrested and charged with reckless endangerment of another person, corruption of a minor and providing liquor to minors. The boy had a 0.93 alcohol level, just below the 0.10 level at which adults are legally considered drunk in Pennsylvania, officials said.

World's biggest arts festival kicks off in Edinburgh

EDINBURGH (R) — Three weeks of non-stop entertainment featuring dancers, musicians, actors and film makers from all corners of the Earth kicked off Sunday when the curtain rose on the world's biggest arts festival. Forty-six years after the first festival of music and drama put the genteel Scottish capital firmly on the arts map, the Edinburgh International Festival and its associated fringe and film events are set for one of their biggest years to date. Ticket sales for the main festival have passed the £1 million (almost \$1.5 million) mark, up 15 per cent on the start of last year's event, while hotels and guest houses report the best trade since the slump of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Other festivals may boast more art, newer films or bigger stars, but none can rival the annual Edinburgh jamboree for sheer size and variety. Like Cannes Film Festival, London's Covent Garden and the New York's comedy store rolled into the Edinburgh's attractions this month.